



EXTRA CCTV FOR CRIME HOT SPOTS

Report by Sue Austin

OSWESTRY is to see more CCTV cameras trained onto the town's busiest street at night as part of ongoing improvements to the award-winning system.

The volunteer-run CCTV scheme, launched in 2001, was given a complete overhaul two years ago with better quality recording and wireless cameras.

Volunteers have helped with an average of 600 incidents each year and in the past three months the CCTV organisers have already carried out 40 reviews of evidence.

Co-ordinator, Jim Stafford, in a report to this week's annual town meeting, paid tribute to Oswestry Town Council for supporting the system since its inception in 1999.

"Since the new system went live in 2015, the council has paid for extra cameras covering



CCTV co-ordinator Jim Stafford

Hopes for new lease of life for town's market

OSWESTRY'S outdoor market could be a step closer to moving into the town's streets next week.

The town council has applied for permission to set up stalls in Bailey Street each Wednesday and Saturday. Currently the market is based on the Bailey Head.

In recent months the number of traders setting up their stalls in Oswestry has declined and the council hopes that the new venue will give the market a new lease of life.

It is working with the Business Improvement District project to find ways of offering more to shoppers to woo them to Oswestry.

A report to the north planning committee of Shropshire Council, which meets on April 25, says the aim is to attract new visitors and improve the town centre generally.

"The current Wednesday and Saturday outdoor markets on Horsemarket and Bailey Head have been severely affected by the increasing trend for internet shopping and other competition," the report says. "This has had a knock-on effect in the number of customers using the indoor market."

The Town Council has trialled an artisan market on Bailey Street and New Street on the last Friday of each month since June 2016 which has proved popular.

ing Coney Green, the Oswestry Road and King Street junction and two cameras at the Gatacre Pavilion," he said.

In February a further bid was submitted to the West Mercia police commissioner for £26,500 to add further cameras.

"We want to cover the Smithfield Road car park and the Castlefields area and would also like three mobile cameras which can be deployed quickly to resolve emerging hot spots for crime and anti-social behaviour. We hope this bid will be successful."

Mr Stafford said two new cameras were being installed over the coming days.

"Last summer the camera covering Willow Street – the busiest camera on the system because of the night-time economy – came down when the corner of the Get Connected Shop on which it was fixed crumbled. This has made it much more difficult for police to successfully investigate allegations of assault and disorder and removed the ability of CCTV staff to warn police when problems might be developing," he said.

Safer

He said the property company which owned the building wanted a significant payment for the camera to be put back.

"Owners of properties are usually pleased to provide sites, knowing that CCTV cameras make Oswestry a safer place to do business."

"There is no single site which offered the same vantage point and so the town council has agreed to fund an extra camera so two can cover Willow Street."

"Fortunately public-spirited local businessmen, Halit Sevim, owner of USA Fried Chicken and the Turkish Barbers, and Russell Price, manager of the Wetherspoon pub immediately agreed to have cameras on their premises. Both are strong supporters of our Pubwatch scheme."

Last year the CCTV won the Star Council project of the year award. There are currently 21 volunteers who give up their time to monitor the cameras. The youngest is 23 while the oldest is 97.

"They cannot monitor the cameras 24/7 but they do contribute 300 hours a month, which equates to £27,000 a year if we had to pay staff. On Saturday nights the volunteers will stay on duty until 5am."

Animal magic at centre



David Riley, from Zoosbury, with Alice the domestic rat at the centre

MEET an unlikely couple, Bob and Alice, who have just moved into their new home.

Alice, a domestic rat, and Bob the turtle are just two of the unwanted pets and abandoned animals that are the stars of the animal education complex Zoosbury has opened at the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry.

Shrewsbury-based Zoosbury is run by David Riley who is delighted that it now has a second base in the county.

Mr Riley is a professional zoologist and presenter with over 25 years of experience worldwide with all animals in zoos and other animal collections.

He had a busy time over the

Easter break giving visitors to the tourist attraction the chance to get close up with Bob, Alice, Sandy the bearded dragon, Clara the Chilean Rose tarantula and others.

He said the new animal education centre has become a reality through the support and encouragement of staff at the centre.

"We have also received a lot of help and support from members of the public and local businesses who have kindly donated building materials and other equipment."

The education centre is built from recycled and upcycled materials.



Bob the turtle comes up for air

CULTURE

War poet to be honoured with home town statue

WAR poet Wilfred Owen is to be honoured with a statue in the town of his birth.

The sculpture will stand in Cae Glas Park in Oswestry thanks to a project launched by the "Lights Out Trefonen", Oswestry Town Council and artist, Tim Turner.

It will be unveiled during a week-long World War One festival of commemoration and remembrance culminating on Armistice Day, November, 2018. Wilfred Owen died on the battlefield in France just days before the war ended.

Wilfred Owen who was born at Plas Wilmot, Weston Lane, Oswestry, is widely recognised as one of the greatest voices of the First World War. The unveiling of the sculpture will mark the support and contribution of Oswestry to the centenary.

Friends Chris Woods, from "Lights Out Trefonen", and local artist Tim Turner got together to put forward a proposal to Oswestry Town Council.

Mr Woods, who has managed several projects linked to World War One in the West Midlands, said: "I am delighted and proud that the Town Council has agreed to support this project. Tim and I thought it was very important."

POLITICS

MP's surprise at May's election call

NORTH Shropshire MP Owen Paterson admitted he was taken by surprise by the Prime Minister's announcement of a general election in June.

Theresa May called the snap election on Tuesday, stunning Westminster.

Mr Paterson was on a plane when the announcement was made, the former Northern Ireland secretary and Environment minister, no longer part of the cabinet that met prior to the announcement on the steps of Downing Street.

Speaking moments after landing he said: "I am surprised. I can only assume that it is down to the three requirements of Brexit, that is to take control of our laws, our money and our borders, and that she wants a stronger majority."

The MP, a staunch Brexit supporter, will again stand for the North Shropshire seat he has held since 1987.

INSIDE

Runners set for half marathon



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Baby deaths investigation ordered by Health Secretary

By Amy Downward

HEALTH Secretary Jeremy Hunt has asked for baby deaths in Shropshire to be investigated.

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust will be asked to prove the deaths were properly looked into.

It comes amid claims of a 'cluster' of nine deaths between September 2014 and May 2016, of which seven were avoidable, according to inquests.

It follows a damning report last year into why a baby died six hours after her birth. Kate Stanton-Davies died after delays transferring her from Ludlow Community Hospital to a doctor-led maternity unit in March 2009.

An independent review found the hospital trust abdicated its responsibility in finding out why the baby died and failed to establish facts and accountability.

In a separate tragedy, hospital chiefs were last year told by a coroner to make improvements to avoid more baby deaths after a four-month old from Oswestry collapsed and died following complications at birth.

Ivy Morris died at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital in May after collapsing during a feed at the family home in Oswestry while suffering from bronchopneumonia.

Her inquest heard that errors during her birth including monitoring the wrong heartbeat and a delayed second stage of labour meant she suffered from severe perinatal hypoxic ischaemic brain damage.

In response to the Jeremy Hunt's intervention, hospital trust medical director Dr Edwin Borman, said death rates at the trust were no worse than anywhere else.

He said: "When I look at the perinatal mortality rate at our trust compared to the rest of the NHS, we are at an equivalent level to the rest of the country."

"I would acknowledge that in the case of foetal heart rate monitoring, we have identified a number of cases where learning has not been fully implemented."

"We've put systems in place to make improvements. We've been at the forefront of trying to bring in systems that will improve our ability to diagnose when things go wrong."

The Department of Health's Felicity Cooke said: "The health secretary asked NHS regulators to undertake an investigation in light of disclosures that in a number of tragic cases standards of care fell far below those parents would expect."

Students building on their knowledge



Representatives from the college, Jessup and The Wrekin Housing Trust with students Cameron Oliver and Mitch Ellis

STUDENTS from North Shropshire College have been carrying out work experience on a new development of 46 homes.

A mixture of two and three bedroom homes are being built for The Wrekin Housing Trust by contractor Jessup at the site of Oswestry's former leisure centre adjacent to the college.

The students who are studying plumbing have been able to spend up to two days on site and after being fully briefed about health and safety, have spent time observing all aspects of work from groundworks to plastering.

Students Cameron Oliver and Mitch Ellis said: "It has been great to see the entire site

being worked on and talk with the different trades on site. Getting up onto the scaffold and seeing the roof and guttering works has been a highlight."

"We both feel inspired to look into apprenticeships to further our knowledge of construction and start a career."

Course tutor Nic Davies said: "This has been an eye opening experience for our students. Explaining in the workshop is great but you can't beat seeing what you have learnt being put into practice. I've also seen the students really engage with discussions about various aspects of the homes being built." Alan Mason, senior clerk of works for The Wrekin Housing Trust, said: "It's

brilliant to see students taking a real interest in the various aspects of construction work required to develop our new homes."

"Working alongside a contractor like Jessup offers a real opportunity to learn and get a feel for the type of jobs that may be available to them in the future. The development of this site will provide 106 jobs including five construction apprentice positions" Peter Butler, general manager from Jessup, said: "Jessup is pleased to work with The Wrekin Housing Trust to be able to offer valuable work experience to students from Walsford and North Shropshire College on the College Road development of 46 new homes."

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Businesses could qualify for rate relief

FINANCIAL help for high street businesses in Powys that are in receipt of small business rates relief or have seen their business rates increase because of UK legislation is being offered by the county council.

Powys County Council is using money provided by the Welsh Government to help limit rises in business rates for high-street retailers in 2017/18 as a result of England and Wales-wide revaluations.

David Powell, the council's strategic director of resources, said: "There are two levels of relief available. Support of up to £500 is available for businesses with a rateable value of between £6,001 and £12,000 and who are in receipt of small business rates relief while support of up to £1,500 is available for high street businesses with rateable values between £12,001 and £50,000 that have seen an increase in their liability from April 1 2017.

"The relief is aimed at 'high street' retail businesses, which would include shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments situated within Powys towns and villages."

There are some limitations on the funding available and some businesses are not deemed retail, for example solicitors or financial services providers. Businesses located within out of town retail parks and industrial estates are also excluded.

Activity session is planned at library

CARERS can enjoy being in the Same Time Same Place when they meet at a library to relax for a while.

The daytime activity for carers and those for whom they care will be at Oswestry library on Tuesday from 10.30am to 11.30am and from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

The Same Time Same Place session will give carers the opportunity to sit back with a hot drink, relax for an hour and listen to library staff reading fiction and poetry.

At the same time, their loved ones can join a reminiscence session in the library meeting room to recall memories using a memory bag.

The event is free and suitable for all abilities.

Places can be booked for those interested by calling the library on (01743) 250351.

Alternatively people can email oswestry.library@shropshire.gov.uk

Hospital chief marks first year at the helm

Report by Sue Austin

THE opening of a multi-million pound theatre complex and the care and compassion of staff have been the highlights of the first year in office of the chief executive of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Mark Brandreth was appointed in January last year as the hospital faced an investigation by the Government watchdog body, Monitor, over surgery waiting times.

He said he was confident that the hospital was moving forward and said that at the end of March 91.5 per cent of English patients had had treatment within the 18-week target. The trust had hoped to reach 92 per cent.

"We only just missed our target but, if we look back to a year ago we have improved by six to seven per cent," he said.

"The opening of our £15 million theatre block has helped, as has the recent appointment of eight new consultants. Activity has increased and we will keep on top of the figures."

He said a high point of his first year had to be the opening of the new theatre block.

"What I have been most struck with at the orthopaedic is its friendliness," Mr Brandreth said.

"I have never worked anywhere before where there have been grandmother, mother and daughter all employed in the same hospital, that is something very special – and this is a very special place."

"The compassion and care that is shown by our staff to patients, and to each other comes from that closeness that is felt here."

"People want to work at this hospital and patients tell us that what we are doing is right. There are many patients that have to be with us for some time – for those in the spinal injuries centre it is their home for months at a time."

Patients in the spinal injury wards chatted to the chief executive as he popped into the centre to mark his first year in office.

David Edwards, 24, from Birmingham, suffered his life changing injury on December 28 in an accident at work, while Matt Drake, 32, a member of the armed forces, from south Devon, was injured in a dune buggy accident in the Middle East.

"The staff in the unit are all specialists and so know exactly how to treat spinal cord injured people like myself," Mr Edwards said.



Chief executive of the orthopaedic hospital Mark Brandreth with patients David Edwards and Matt Drake

'No more hold-ups on Future Fit process'

OSWESTRY Orthopaedic Hospital chief executive Mark Brandreth says there should be no more hold-ups on the future of health services in the region.

Mr Brandreth said that the Future Fit plans are not just about accident and emergency provision but about meeting the health needs for everyone living and working in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and Mid Wales.

He said he was concerned that the plans had stalled because of the continuing arguments over emergency care and where it should be situated. It was time to move forward. He said: "We can't go on not making a decision about Future Fit. There

must be consultation but there has to come a time when a decision is made so that the health services in Shropshire and Mid Wales are not damaged."

In November a meeting of the Future Fit Programme Board announced the preferred option for the future of hospital services in Shropshire. The option, that the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital should have the county's main A&E department and that Women and Children's Services that are currently provided at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford, should move to Shrewsbury, was challenged by Telford's unitary authority.

Mr Brandreth said that while

the orthopaedic hospital was on the periphery of the consultation over emergency care, that was just one part of Future Fit's much wider look at health services.

He said: "We are involved in the emergency care considerations to the extent that sometimes our patients will need treatment in another hospital."

But he said more wide reaching changes would affect the hospital. "Under Future Fit we want to develop new ways of working with the GPs for instance," he said. "We want to work far more closely with the GPs in Shrewsbury and Telford as well as in Mid Wales where we already hold clinics with GPs."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Inspectors praise school standards

A HIGH school has made big improvements over the last three years, according to inspectors.

Welshpool High School has been given a glowing report by Government inspectors.

Estyn inspectors, who gave the 900-student school an official rating of "good", say the school has improved since the report three years ago.

Its head said it was another important milestone in the continued success of Welshpool High School, of which the staff, pupils, parents, governors and the wider Welshpool community should be proud.

In the latest Estyn report inspectors said performance at key stage four, from ages 14 to 16, had improved noticeably.

Police backing home safety event

POLICE are supporting a special Home Safe Home event in Oswestry next month.

The event will be held on May 11 between 10am to 2pm at The Centre in Oak Street, organised by the Shropshire Council Community Enablement Team.

West Mercia Police will be talking part in the event for people of Oswestry and its rural area.

Steve Latham-White from Shropshire Council said: "The event will cover an extensive range of support available for people."

"The aim is to promote independence, keeping people at home and safe for longer or improve safety in the home."

Lunch club due to meet up again

A LUNCH club based in a village between Oswestry and Welshpool has announced details of its next function.

Pant Lunch Club will hold its next meeting on May 7.

The lunch will take place at 12.30pm at the Cross Guns pub in Pant.

The club was set up to give people in the village and further afield an informal way to meet up with other people without having to join or become a member of a formal club.

The pub will offer a choice of lunch items at £5 per person which includes a hot lunch, tea or coffee.

People of all ages are welcome to attend.



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James Condliffe

Conman ordered to pay back £97,500

A CONMAN jailed for advertising sham care packages for the elderly in a high society magazine has been ordered to sell his horses and empty his bank account to pay back £97,500.

James Condliffe, 34, of Llanerfyl, near Llanfair Caereinion placed an advert in famed women's publication The Lady of a Welsh cottage home and care package.

He first swindled money by pretending to have excellent horses, then carried out the advertising scam in The Lady while on bail for that offence.

Margaret Badger, 78, from Southsea, Hampshire, responded to The Lady ad, believing she was ensuring she would be cared for as her health deteriorated. Portsmouth Crown Court heard the charity worker paid

huge sums from her life savings into Condliffe's account over four months. He even took her to see the land at Pen Y Rhos, where he lived.

But Condliffe never owned the land and was jailed for four years and nine months last year for fraud.

The court heard Condliffe also conned another woman out of £18,000 through another advert in The Lady. Judge Ian Pearson ruled

Condliffe benefited from his lies by £102,000 and has now ordered him to pay £97,500 compensation. In the confiscation hearing, Judge Pearson ordered the sale of six horses at auction and the emptying of Condliffe's bank account to recoup the cash.

At the hearing it was revealed Condliffe had received a consecutive four-year and three-month sentence for further frauds.

17,000 killed or hurt in road accidents in region

Report by Rob Gollidge

ALMOST 17,000 people were hurt or killed on roads in the West Mercia Police area over a five-year period, a new report says.

The region, which includes Shropshire, ranks 22nd out of 55 regions in the UK list for dangerous roads.

There were 16,850 people hurt or killed in West Mercia. And a ratio of one in 72 people living in the region were likely to be involved in an accident.

Dyfed Powys came 35th for the number of accidents, with 9,401. But in terms of ratio per population likely to be in an accident it came 12th, with one in 57. The West Midlands Police area was revealed as the region with the most dangerous roads, in terms of the number of accidents.

Water plan to go ahead

PLANS to extend water treatment works on the edge of Oswestry, which provide water to almost a million homes, have been approved.

The works in Broomhall Lane provides approximately 12 per cent of the water supplied by United Utilities to 910,039 customers in the north west including Crewe, Chester, Warrington, Liverpool, St Helens and Wigan.

Water comes to the works from Lake Vyrnwy and is then treated before being sent to Prescot Service Reservoir near Liverpool.

United Utilities hopes that the upgrades will help reduce the manganese levels in the water, which can lead to discolouration, and also reduce the risk of bacteria making its way into the water supply.

Plans were approved by Shropshire Council planning officers under delegated powers.

There were 37,153 people hurt or killed in the West Midlands between 2011 and 2015. But, with its high population, residents are statistically less likely to be a casualty in a road accident with just one in 155 likely to be hurt or killed on the road.

The analysis from government statistics also revealed that Staffordshire was the 16th most dangerous part of the country to travel through by car with 19,577 people hurt or killed over the period and one in 56 people likely to be involved in a serious collision.

The most dangerous stretches of road in the UK have 30mph speed limits – making up 57 per cent of all accidents that led to injury or death.

The report was put together from official figures for 2011 to 2015 by Witter Towbars. A spokesman said: "This year the UK is set to experience a significant rise in the number of staycations, with record numbers of people exploring the length and breadth of the British Isles. This is great news for many businesses. In our industry, we encourage staycations but we also promote safety. We hope that exposing the statistics will make road users more alert."

Enjoy classic tunes at gallery

The FB Pocket Orchestra line-up Oliver Corbin, Jenny Russell and Paul Stevenson

THE sounds of the 1920s and 30s will be brought to Oswestry this weekend when the acoustic three-piece FB Pocket Orchestra will be performing live at the Willow Gallery on Saturday.

The band will play jazz, blues ragtime and the popular dance music of the day, giving half-forgotten classic tunes a contemporary, foot-tapping and engaging twist.

All the way from Southampton and playing an array of instruments, the trio has emerged as a leading light among a new generation of performers, receiving enthu-

siastic responses from audiences across the country.

A Willow Gallery spokesperson said: "Take your seats for a sparkling entertainment experience. This is an opportunity to find out what each instrument adds to the mix and how versatile and free this music can be. Vintage dress is optional."

Admission to the show will be £10 (children £5). The concert starts at 8pm, but early arrivals will have the opportunity to peruse the gallery's latest exhibition. The licensed bar is open all evening.



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CHRONICLE

Dozens of schools keen on new academies trust plan

Report by Sam Morris

ABOUT 30 schools have made "positive noises" about joining a new academies trust being set up by Shropshire Council.

The county's education system is set for its biggest shake up in years after the authority revealed plans to set up the multi-academy trust.

At a meeting of the council's cabinet, David Minnery, portfolio holder for children and young people, said about 30 schools had expressed interest in joining the proposed trust, which would be run by headteachers and governors, with support from the council.

The cabinet agreed to support the development of the Shropshire Education Trust and meet the initial start up costs of £65,000 if it does not proceed. A final decision will be made in June when it is known how many schools want to sign up. If it goes ahead, the trust will start from September this year.

Free for all prescriptions 'should stop'

FREE prescriptions for all should be scrapped, Montgomeryshire Assembly Member, Russell George has said.

Mr George said more than £5 million of free paracetamol was dished out in Wales last year while some patients were denied potentially life saving cancer medication. The Assembly Member wants to see the end of universal free prescriptions in Wales, which he describes as a "buffet cart".

The free prescriptions for all in Wales has just marked its 10th anniversary. But Welsh Conservatives say the Welsh Government must move towards a more "just and affordable" model. Mr George said: "Universal free prescriptions are a good and noble idea if you have a bottomless well of cash, but clearly this just isn't the case for the Welsh NHS."

"Last year the health service in Wales spent a record-breaking £593.7m on free prescriptions. With many residents in North Powys contacting me saying that they are waiting months and, in some cases, years for an operation, surely some of this money would be better spent elsewhere rather than subsidising prescriptions for those who can clearly afford to make a contribution. Put simply, people who can afford to pay for their medicine should pay, while those who cannot afford to pay, or live with long-term chronic conditions, should still be able to benefit from free medicine. The NHS can no longer be treated like a buffet cart."

Councillor Minnery said: "I am delighted to finally be able to present this paper. "Nobody has come back with anything negative. I understand there are about 30 schools making very positive noises."

"We have set a date of June 9 for a final decision to be made."

The development comes as a number of schools in Shropshire have been targeted to join academies from outside the county.

Council leaders fear schools are increasingly being run by organisations that have little knowledge of the county. There is also a fear that Shropshire's best schools are being 'cherry-picked' by academy chains from outside Shropshire.

Academies are allowed to run independently of local education authorities, with control of their own budgets.

A number of Shropshire schools have already converted to academy status by joining organisations independent of Shropshire Council's local education authority.

At the meeting of the cabinet, it was also agreed that members and trustees of the trust would include representation from the council, capped at 19.99 per cent and if a church school is involved, representation from the Diocese. The new trust would run as an 'arms-length' organisation, separate from the council but supported by it.

Academies operate differently to state maintained schools and receive their funding directly from the government, not through the local council.

Staff are also employed by the academy trust rather than the council. Councillor Alan Mosley, leader of the Labour group on Shropshire Council, said: "I do think it has been greatly to the disadvantage of education that in the last five or six years, staff have been forced to seek academy status rather than focus solely on providing the best quality education. There is no evidence that academies do better or worse than local authority schools."

Pub taps into real ale award



The licensees of the Bailey Head, Duncan Borrowman and Grace Goodlad

A PUB has won an award from the real ale group Camra, a year after opening.

The Bailey Head pub in Oswestry, formerly the Castle Tavern, was voted market towns' pub of the year by Shrewsbury and West Shropshire Camra.

Licensees Duncan Borrowman and Grace Goodlad will celebrate with a special evening for their customers.

Mr Borrowman said: "To say that we are stunned to win this award in our first year is an understatement."

"We had won a number of Camra awards at the members' club we were involved with before we moved to Oswestry, up to

National Club of the Year runner up twice, but winning these awards in the far more competitive arena of pubs caps them all.

"We are extremely humbled and grateful."

"If our customers didn't drink the beer and vote for us this wouldn't have happened so we want to ensure they can join in the celebration."

On May 13 the Bailey Head pub will have a 'tap takeover' of beers from Chapel Brewery in Dulleston Heath, including a special beer brewed with Ken King the brewer at Chapel.

Customers can meet Ken and enjoy an evening of surprises, Mr Borrowman said.

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PETER RHODES

WHAT is it about lavatories that gets you lot writing? From a bulging postbag, my eye was caught by the email from a reader claiming to have found a mixed-sex lavatory in France. To be precise, in Toulouse.

ANOTHER reader swears he spotted this headline sweeping across his screen on BBC News: "Virgin trains drivers to strike at Easter." Try saying it a few times.

WITH the local-council elections approaching, Philip Collins wrote a column for the Times in favour of making voting compulsory, as it is in Australia. Down Under, legally-enforced voting produced a turnout of 93.3 per cent in its 2013 federal elections, compared with Britain's dismal 66 per cent in our 2015 general election. And yet, whatever the Aussies may do, is it not rather un-English to drag people down to their local polling station if they would rather be watching telly? The blame for low turnouts rests on the lack of real difference between UK political parties, especially in local elections. Give the people a real choice, and a system that makes every vote count, and you'd see a much higher turnout. In last year's EU referendum, for example, the turnout was a healthy 72 per cent, proving that the best way to encourage voting is to make elections not compulsory but compelling.

I DON'T want to start a big-bomb competition with the Yanks but let's put this MOAB (Mother Of All Bombs) device, dropped in Afghanistan last week, into perspective. It weighs 21,600 lbs and can spoil your whole day. Yet more than 70 years ago the RAF, using the technology of slide rules and piston engines, was successfully dropping Grand Slam bombs weighing 22,000lbs and ripping Hitler's infrastructure to pieces. Admittedly, science has moved on and the new US bomb may be more precise and powerful than the old Grand Slam. But the profound and undeniable difference is that in 1945 the British bomber crews dropping these formidable weapons knew they were fighting a war that could be won.

OUR trip to Cornwall has the distinction of being the only holiday for many years when I didn't have a single glass of wine at dinner. The rise of so-called artisan ciders is producing some truly great stuff. I was surprised to see how many brands are now available online, although one producer's boast that his cider can be 'delivered to your home or work', is worth running past the boss. Productivity is not always improved by a delivery of bottled sunshine.



Jacob Batt with the virtual reality glasses at the exhibition at Telford International Centre



The National Flood and Coast Conference Exhibition at Telford International Centre



Flashback to February 2014 when the Edgar Davies Ground next to the Severn was covered by flood water

WORKING FOR YOU

The future of immigration policy was one of the most emotive subjects of the Brexit campaign. To the detractors on the Remain side, concerns over immigration amounted to nothing more than racism or xenophobia, but they are nothing of the kind. Rather, the morphing of the free movement of labour established by the Treaty of Rome to the free movement of people established at Lisbon is simply the clearest manifestation of the notion that we do not run our own country.

Rapid levels of population growth put severe pressure on our public services. For example North Shropshire has experienced an increase in demand for school places; the proportion of pupils who speak English as an additional language in a primary school in Oswestry is above the national average. Access to healthcare suffers as well; I have received letters from constituents who are unable to register with a dentist due to high levels of demand.

To meet the rising need for housing it is estimated that the UK will need to build 300,000 homes a year, or one every two minutes. This constant pressure to build houses is deeply unpopular in villages and market towns.

The overwhelming majority of Britons – emphatically including those who voted to Leave – feel absolutely no resentment towards workers or students from overseas, recognising and valuing the skills and experience which they bring. Whether they are eye surgeons from Bangalore or skilled abattoir workers from Eastern Europe, it is manifestly in our national interest to be as open as possible in attracting the best talent from right across the world.

To take just one example, there are an estimated 67,000 seasonal workers of non-UK origin in UK agriculture, doing an enormous amount of vital work. The last Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme came to an end in 2013 – when freedom of movement was extended to Romania and Bulgaria – but a new scheme will need to be devised once freedom of movement ceases. The new system will need to be flexible and forward-thinking, ensuring among other considerations that welfare standards for employees are maintained. Schemes of this type have enjoyed success elsewhere; New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme in particular has been suggested as international best practice. A truly global perspective should inform our thinking across the whole range of immigration policy, from refuge and asylum to educational opportunities and the most highly skilled.

Owen Paterson
North Shropshire MP

High-tech approach to flood defences of future

The latest ways to combat flooding were shown at an exhibition in Shropshire. Report by MAT GROWCOTT.

VIRTUAL reality and cutting-edge science will lead the way when it comes to the flood defences of the future – according to experts.

More than 1,500 people visited a conference at Telford's International Centre to learn more about what techniques might help to protect homes and businesses from the effects of flooding and erosion across the UK.

With major flooding issues in villages around Oswestry and Welshpool, Bridgnorth, Ironbridge, Shrewsbury and along the rest of the River Severn over the last five years, it's a topical subject for the people of Shropshire, who joined visitors from around the country to learn more about the innovations in the industry.

One of the high-tech tools on display at this year's event was a virtual reality headset that allowed guests to see 360 degree plans of flood defences and simulations.

Jacob Batt, graduate engineer for developer WSP, said: "We developed this as part of the public consultation for a flood alleviation system in Dumfries, Scotland.

Visualise

"A model was developed to show what the flood scene would look like. The general public can't necessarily visualise a plan like engineers can, but this allows them to see exactly what a scheme will actually look like."

By putting on the virtual reality helmet, those using the device can look



Grant Cooke from the Environment Agency with one of the huge pumps for clearing flood water at the National Flood and Coast Conference and Exhibition at Telford International Centre

around the plans in real time as though they were there. A computer-generated 3D map of the area of Dumfries affected by the work was created, and the public could explore the area in full.

People wearing the goggles can pinpoint their own homes and see what changes would happen to the landscape surrounding them, if plans are given the go-ahead.

Jacob said it was an idea that could have far-reaching implications for the future. "We developed this technology in-house," he said.

"Further down the line we are hoping to be able to grab the information needed for this more easily so that it's cheaper, and then it could be used for all sorts of things.

"The reaction to this as opposed to a sheet of paper with some drawing on have been very positive, especially in Telford during this show. People are really excited to see what happens next."

Other technological breakthroughs on display included a pump that could remove the equivalent of three Olympic-sized swimming pools in less than an hour and flood barriers that seal themselves when water hits, preventing thousands of tonnes of water from breaking through.

Clare Dinnis, deputy director of strategy for the environment agency and chair of the Flood and Coast Committee said: "After the success of the first event in 2016, we are delighted to return with a programme developed by a range of flood and coast risk management partners, including professionals involved in scheme design and delivery as well as public authorities and community groups that help to plan and build resilience to flooding.

"Following the devastating flood experienced through 2015/16, we have seen a new dynamic in partnership working across England, driving forward planning at catchment level through collaborative team-work."

Forum

Val Johnston Jones, event director said: "We are pleased that we have all the key stakeholders present at the conference this year and so many exhibitors showcasing the latest products, technologies and thought leadership.

"It is truly the most high-profile forum that the UK has seen on a subject that lies at the heart of so many communities." The last major flooding event in Bridgnorth took place at the beginning of 2014 and there were further flooding issues towards the end of 2015.

Shrewsbury's Frankwell car park was fully flooded at the end of 2015 when heavy rain caused the River Severn to break its bank.

Roads had to be closed throughout the county as bad weather and flooding made it dangerous for vehicles.

The River Severn along The Wharfage in Ironbridge was expected to rise to over 5m above its normal level.



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Letters

So grateful for outstanding NHS work

DURING the past, few months I have been the recipient of outstanding good health care. The concerns regarding my health started with a routine health check at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, I was then referred to Telford for an angiogram after which I was not allowed home and a bed was found for me at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. Then, after seven days, I was transferred to Stoke Cardiac Hospital for heart bypass surgery.

The excellent doctors clearly spotted problems with my heart. I was immediately made aware of my serious heart problem (I could have had a serious heart attack at

any time), I was an inpatient at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital for seven days until a bed became available at Stoke Cardiac Unit (where I understand a lot of people from Shrewsbury who require heart surgery are referred to). These NHS hospitals saved my life. I had a quadruple bypass and after a three-and-a-half week stay in hospital I went home to convalesce.

Upon the advice of the hospital I have since attended the cardiac rehabilitation unit at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital over a three-month period which included attending the gym, during which time I was closely monitored. This rehabilitation

indeed helped with my recovery. This was the first time that I had ever been in a gym. I intend to continue to exercise in a gym, along with walking and cycling. I know it costs the NHS a lot of money for these types of heart surgery and therefore it is so important that patients help their recovery by attending the rehabilitation programme. I am so grateful to the consultants, doctors and nurses for their excellent care that I have received. Finally thank you to the Shrewsbury and Stoke Health Care for the care and attention that I received.

JOHN GOODWIN
Shrewsbury

We all want the same thing when it comes to health care

ABOUT five years ago, government decided the NHS must change so less health-care was delivered in hospital and more by GPs or the community. This project, called Future Fit, was developed by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the team who allocate health spending.

Future Fit has floundered recently. Significantly, it didn't come with any money to implement it. Promises of new rural facilities have disappeared. Our population is ageing and has increasingly complicated health and social care needs. We demand and expect more of the NHS.

Since 2010, local government and health spending cuts coupled with increasing demand have led to a perfect storm. Future Fit examined our two hospitals and concluded they must be made more effective and efficient.

Emergency care would be at one site and planned care at the other. This has led to an almighty row; the front door of any hospital is an A&E department.

The row involves the two CCGs, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin, and the two councils. There are the usual blame games and power struggles. There is increasing frustration with the lack of ability of healthcare managers and councils to complete this project.

Why all the squabbling? Doesn't everybody want the same thing? Better health and social care for themselves and their families?

JANE NIBLOCK
St Martins

Now it is time for Lordsexit

'THE sheer bile that erupted from political and cultural elites in Britain after the Brexit vote reveals a deep-seated contempt for the people and for democracy'!

The above headline is the result of 43 years of UK membership of the European Union, 43 years of MPs, MEPs, peers of the realm, the Civil Service, the Judiciary, the education authorities, and the BBC adopting the arrogance, disdain and superiority stance and attitude of the leaders of the EU in Brussels.

It is being exposed on a daily basis in the House of Lords!

The record of Britain's most successful benefit fraudster pales into insignificance when compared to the 800-plus unelected 'fill-er-boots' peers in the House of Lords and their disgraceful £300 per day, tax-free attendance allowance, £1,500 per week or £45K per annum, a neat little scheme they concocted themselves and a definite improvement of the working man's retirement pension which they endorsed of £150 per week - taxed!

The icing on the peers cake is the fact that these 'working men pensioners' subsidise the peer's food, drink, travel costs and parking in Westminster!

Along with Brexit we ought to begin Lordsexit and save the country £10 billion per annum!

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

Youngsters enjoy spot of fishing on village canal



These youngsters seemed to be enjoying a spot of fishing on the canal at Llanymynech. This undated postcard looks Edwardian and comes from the collection of Ray Farlow of Bridgnorth.

We are borrowing to give billions in foreign aid support

NICE to read that Philip Hammond is going to allocate £2 billion to the social care budget over the next two years.

However, before becoming euphoric over this news people need to realise that we will be borrowing to give away £25 billion in foreign aid over the next two years.

The social care increase is just eight per cent of this figure of which a large amount will be going to dubious causes.

Who are the people to blame for this? It is people of the ilk of Diane Abbott and her cronies aided by dithering David Cameron in the past.

A large reassessment of this foreign aid could solve the hospital crisis as well. I heard no mention of this in Hammond's budget.

Sadly, politicians do not listen to the people.

Furthermore a lot more money could be saved by doing away with the outdated (we know best) House of Lords people put there by dubious past prime ministers.

D L BARNETT
Arleston

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
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EMAIL

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Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Do not write off Labour Party

DECADES ago, a hospital porter colleague, an ex-regimental sergeant major, told me "Aneurin Bevan should have been a Tory! He would have reformed the party".

Harold Macmillan (you've never had it so good) did exactly that! Maybe it's why the Conservatives keep winning elections?

But don't write off the Labour Party as extinct as the dodo because of Mr Corbyn, because as Nye Bevan once remarked "statistics prove nothing".

EMYR DAVIES
Wrexham

Health epidemic of loneliness really affects so many

THERE is a new health epidemic potentially affecting in excess of nine million of the UK's population and it is more likely to lead to an early death than diabetes or smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

This silent killer is loneliness.

I recently spent a few hours going through the register of electors for the Oswestry area and was amazed how many properties only had one person registered. I should add I am one of them.

I would like to set up a friendship club for men and women of all ages and race, be they widowed, divorced, having spent their younger life as an unpaid carer for a disabled or handicapped relation, or just gone through a bad relationship break up and stayed single like me. I would like those who are computer literate to email me at neverbelonelyagain@gmail.com and leave their name and phone number and I will ring you back. Alternatively you can ring me on 01691 654520 any evening.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Manifesto photo from Australia

SHROPSHIRE'S Conservatives have been left red-faced after it emerged that a picture on their manifesto is of staff at an Australian charity.

The bizarre situation was uncovered by Ludlow Liberal Democrat Councillor Andy Boddington, who used a reverse image search on Google to find out where the picture had come from.

The leaflet has been distributed across the county as the Conservatives campaign ahead of next month's local elections.

The Ludlow North Councillor said he was surprised at the decision to use the picture. He said: "I cannot believe any political party would use a photo from a charity without permission. It defies belief that the Conservatives decided to use an image of charity workers on the other side of the world, rather than of their own supporters."

A spokesman for the Conservatives, said: "We have contacted the charity and apologised."

"No further literature with the image on will be distributed."

Young urged to join brass band

YOUNG musicians are being invited to join a new brass band being started by the award-winning Ifton Colliery Band.

The Iftonites will hold their first rehearsal on Sunday at 6pm. The rehearsal will take place in the St Martins Community Centre in St Martins near Oswestry. Jenny Hewitt from Ifton Colliery Band, said: "It would great to see lots of new faces ready to have some fun, learn to play and make some friends. New players and those with playing experience are welcome to come along. The band will cater for youngsters between the ages of seven and 15 and there are instruments available for young people to use."

To find out more, email iftonband1916@gmail.com

Findings of study into birthing changes due

Report by Amy Downward

HEALTH bosses say they hope to have a view on whether midwife-led units in Shropshire should be changed by the end of June.

Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group is currently carrying out a review into the county's midwife-led units.

The trust that runs Shropshire's two main hospitals recently said it thinks the three midwife-led units at Oswestry, Bridgnorth and Ludlow should become birthing centres – closing at night.

Campaigners who are fighting the possible changes to maternity units said that they would resist the move, which they see as a downgrading of services.

Julian Povey, chairman of Shropshire CCG, said it was doing the review as the units were struggling and Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH) said it could not deliver the services under the current costs.

He said: "We have put money aside for the service currently as it is and we are making sure we include everyone in the review. Currently 85 per cent of births are done at the consultant-led unit in Telford."

"In the evening 33 per cent of midwives are in the midwife-led units where there are less deliveries – there is a mismatch of where the most deliveries and staff are."

"The midwife-led units are much loved and the people who use them have brilliant experiences. We want everyone to have that."

"We are hoping to have a view by the end of June and plan for the changes over the summer – if any are needed."

Dr Julie Davies, director of strategy and service redesign at the CCG, said: "We need to validate the claims made by SaTH and get the full picture. That will either support the case for change or not."

Here's summit to really shout about



Snowdon fought off other UK landmarks including Scotland's Glencoe Valley, Stonehenge and Cheddar

IT'S worth the trek – or the rail fare.

And a new poll confirms what many of us in the Oswestry and Welshpool areas know already. The view from Snowdon is officially the best in the UK.

Snowdonia, the mountainous region which features the highest peak in Wales at 1,085 metres, was voted number one in a poll of more than 2,500 people to mark the launch of the Samsung Galaxy S8 smartphone.

The top 10 views include pre-

historic monument Stonehenge in Wiltshire, Loch Ness in the Scottish Highlands, St Ives Bay in Cornwall and the Palace of Westminster in London.

The most important factor for a quintessentially British view was found to be rolling countryside, with 42 per cent of people agreeing with that statement.

Britons under the age of 55 take an average of 1,071 photographs on their mobile phones each year,

according to the study. And the accessibility of Snowdon, with its variety of tracks and historic mountain railway, make it the perfect spot for a snap.

Snowdonia is also the most popular UK destination for people from Shropshire, with its dramatic views and nearby coastline.

The region pipped the Scottish Glencoe Valley into second place with Stonehenge third, St Ives fourth and Cheddar fifth.

Shoplifting 'jeopardises the future of businesses'

ALMOST £1 million worth of goods are stolen from shops in our region every year – leading to a warning from a business leader that crime was killing off businesses.

Richard Sheehan, chief executive of Shropshire Chamber of Commerce, described new shoplifting figures as "unwelcome" and urged businesses to work together to tackle the problem.

It comes after figures showed goods worth almost £3m have been stolen from shops across the West Mercia and Dyfed-Powys Police areas in the past three years.

They also show that more than 9,300 incidents of shoplifting have been reported to police since the start of 2014.

Mr Sheehan said: "Any loss of stock to high street shops, particularly small individual ones, can be very damaging to their very existence. With the loss of stock and potential profit loss, retailers face a number of challenges."

"They have also got other challenges with business rates, living wage, minimum wage and enrolment – they are all business costs they have to face. The high number of thefts is unwelcome."

Mr Sheehan says criminals are becoming "more talented". He said: "Thieves seem to have an increasing skill set in the criminal fraternity, and they seem to be more talented and skilful than they used to. They understand distraction tactics and work in teams which makes them harder to detect." He said businesses must set up schemes such as Shopwatch to protect themselves from the economic impact of theft. He added: "We have many roles as a chamber and in the business community. We encourage connectivity between businesses – for them to be able to work together and build relationships so they can alert each and give a heads up of what is happening."

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Members of fitness centre take on the three peaks

MEMBERS of a fitness centre are tackling the three peaks challenge to raise money for charity.

Zest, based in Oswestry, will see five of its members with ages, ranging from 21 to 58, undertake the gruelling challenge in June to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society.

The group has members of their family affected by dementia.

Pauline Lacey, proprietor of Zest, said: "We have all been in training both in the gym and out on the local hills and mountains and have made trips to Ben Nevis and the Lakes, climbing all the three peaks several times.

"We feel ready for the challenge and are looking forward to it.

"We have all been surprised how hard the training has been. Some ladies wanted to join in but were unable to commit to the huge amount of training due to work and personal commitments.

"Dementia as a condition really scares people and we're also aware how underfunded it is."

It is suggested that exercise, healthy eating and not smoking can all help reduce people's chances of developing dementia.

It is estimated that there are just under 5,000 people living with dementia in Shropshire.

Emma Dowler, community fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Society in Shropshire, said: "We are really grateful for Zest's fundraising and this will contribute to support for those currently living with dementia and research into the condition."

If anyone wishes to get involved with supporting their charity work, contact Pauline Lacey directly on 07855 367771 or make a donation to their JustGiving page - Zest Fitness

Town leads the way in Welcome for sufferers

Report by Naomi Penrose

OSWESTRY has become the second in the UK to become a stoma friendly town.

Two public toilets in Oswestry town centre now have a shelf and hook, and display 'Not all Disabilities are Visible' stoma friendly stickers.

Monty Taylor, chairman of the Colostomy Association said: "We are delighted that Oswestry town centre is joining our campaign.

"Public toilets are a necessity for people with a stoma as they need to be sure they can conveniently and securely change their colostomy bag.

"These improvements will make a huge difference for visitors to Oswestry."

Mayor of Oswestry, Councillor Paul Milner said: "As a town council we are delighted to support the Colostomy Association in their campaign to raise awareness of how important it is that public conveniences cater for both residents and visitors to Oswestry who have a stoma and may need to use our facilities.

"We are delighted that Oswestry has now become a stoma friendly town by installing a shelf and a hook in both the toilets at the Central Car Park and within Cae Glas Park."

The Mayor added: "I would urge other authorities to follow suit in supporting the Colostomy Association in providing these important facilities for people to use if and when needed."

Individuals with a stoma have had their bowel diverted through their abdomen so that bodily waste can pass into a stoma bag.

This may be due to illnesses such as cancer, Crohn's disease or following trauma to the abdomen.

College runners supporting hospice



Jill Cawthray, Vicky Brayne and Katie Ellis are running the Oswestry Half Marathon for Hope House

THREE staff members from North Shropshire College have set their sights on picking up a specially designed medal when they complete the first Oswestry Half Marathon on April 30.

Vicky Brayne and Jill Cawthray from the Oswestry campus of the college will be joined by Katie Ellis

from the Walford campus, and collectively they will be running for Team Hope House in what promises to be an exciting new event for the town.

The British Ironwork Centre will be hosting the event, and those who complete the run of just over 13 miles will receive a specially commissioned medal designed by the well-

known British sculptor Joe Bailey unique to the event.

People can show their support for the half marathon team, and the wider Hope House Children's Hospice cause, by donating cash through their JustGiving page at www.just-giving.com/fundraising/Jill-Cawthray1

NEWS IN BRIEF

Artist showcasing work at gallery

AN artist's interest in history and the natural world are the subject of his latest exhibition.

Martin Lewis's works are on display at the Qube in Oswestry after recently opening to the public.

A host of dignitaries including Mayor of Oswestry, Councillor Paul Milner, went along to mark the exhibition's launch.

The artist, from Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, said: "The current exhibition features images drawn from my interest in history and the natural world. They include themes from rock carvings and paintings, as well as Celtic art, fossils and Neolithic objects.

"After establishing a basic structure I use painted paper shapes which I cut out and reassemble onto the picture surface.

"I then develop the overall image with paint. The pictures are in acrylic paint and paper, arranged onto a smooth hardboard surface."

His work will be on display at the Qube's gallery until May 8.

Homes plans for village approved

PLANS for 18 homes in the village of Kinnerley near Oswestry have been approved - despite fears of over-development.

The site had been given outline planning application for 12 houses.

But developers Chartland Homes wanted to increase that by an uplift of 50 per cent, leading to the building of 18 homes.

Kinnerley Parish Council initially supported the development of the site but objected to 18 homes.

However, despite the concerns, the 18-homes plan was approved by Shropshire Councillors at a recent planning committee meeting.

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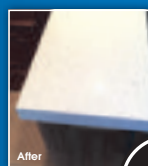
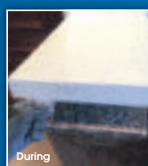
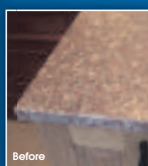
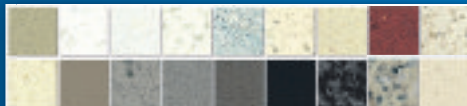
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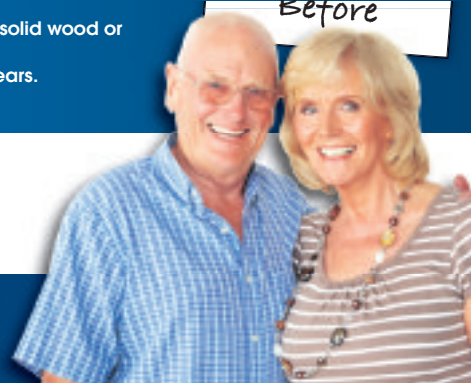
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Secondary school dinners cashless

A CASHLESS payment system for school meals is now in operation at all Mid Wales secondary schools.

Powys County Council is introducing electronic payments which offer a convenient method for parents and carers to pay for school meals.

The first phase of the project is now complete with the system in place at the county's secondary schools. To date more than 360,000 school meals have been paid for through the system with 6,100 pupils using it. Under the new system, money can be pre-loaded and topped-up on an online account with pupils using for school meals, and in the future, a range of other school-based payments.

The change has been welcomed with positive feedback from parents, pupils and staff. The authority says the take-up of free school meals in the secondary schools has increased.

Fine arts group to meet up again

THE next North Powys Decorative & Fine Arts Society (NADFAS) meeting is on May 25.

The meeting will take place at The Royal Oak Hotel in Welshpool.

It will begin at 2.30pm.

The speaker is Fenella Billington.

She will speak on the subject Murders, Mistresses and Musketeers – The French Monarchy After King Francis 1 (1547-1643)

Non-members are welcome to attend, but a donation of £5 towards expenses would be appreciated.

Further details about the meeting and the group can be obtained by contacting Avril Hart at avril@avrilhart.com

Alternatively people can call (01938) 555938 for details.

Big changes ahead at next election for council

Report by Naomi Penrose

THERE will be plenty of changes at Welshpool Town Council as five of its councillors revealed they were not standing for re-election.

Withdrawals on Welshpool Town Council mean there will only be an election on Castle ward where six candidates will fight for four seats. There will also be vacancies on both Llanerchydol and Gungrog wards after nominations closed.

Those not seeking re-election include County Councillor Graham Breeze who says he will concentrate on representing Welshpool at county level if re-elected on May 4. Others not returning include Councillors John Corfield, Amy Bowen, Brendon McWhinnie and Derek Simms.

On Castle Ward, where there are four seats, sitting councillors Phil Pritchard, Hazel Evans, both Independent, and Nicola Morris (Labour) face competition from Richard Church (Liberal Democrat), Julie Ellis (Independent) and Penny Vingoe (Independent).

New councillors Folkert Veenstra (Liberal Democrat) and Yvonne Owen (Independent) will serve on Llanerchydol Ward alongside Malcolm Douglass, Heather Sherlock and Shane Squibb (all Independent) – leaving one vacancy. David Senior (Plaid Cymru), Estelle Bleivas, Heather Chave, Chris Davies and Steve Kaye (all Independent) will return to the Gungrog Ward, leaving one vacancy.

Polling for the Castle ward contest will take place at The Methodist Church on May 4. The vote comes ahead of the General Election taking place on June 8.

Great gardens will be celebrated



The historic Powis Castle is famous for its picturesque gardens

TWO gardens will take centre stage as part of a 16-day event.

Among the gardens taking part in the Festival of Gardens North Wales will be Welshpool's Powis Castle and Gardens and The Dingle Garden, also near Welshpool.

From May 27 until June 11, a total of 24 gardens across the region will throw open their gates to thousands of visitors during the festival.

A packed programme of events, ranging from behind the scenes guided tours and photography competitions to a squirrel watch and a vintage car rally, will be staged at various gardens as the festival unfolds.

Jim Jones, North Wales Tourism managing director, said: "North Wales has some of the most beautiful gardens in the UK and this event is all about showing them off to as many people as possible."

More than 100 events are planned over the 16 days of the festival at gardens taking part including musical performances, orienteering sessions, treasure hunts, bug hunts, gardening lectures, family treasure hunts, children's trails and plant sales.

For more information visit www.gardensnorthwales.co.uk

Quiz aims to highlight war memorials

A FREE-to-enter quiz has been launched by Powys County Council to raise awareness of the Powys War Memorials Project.

The quiz is made up of 10 questions and a tie-breaker based on war memorials.

The council obtained funding for the project from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Cadw and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

One aim of the Powys War Memorials Project 2014-2018: 'A Mark of Respect' – a four-year project commemorating the centenary of the First World War – is to work with local communities, volunteers and others to find, record and catalogue all the First World War memorials in the county. There is also funding available through the project to repair, restore and maintain First World War memorials.

There are four prizes, worth almost £200 in total, to be won with first prize of a pamper day at the Lake Country House Hotel and Spa, Llangammarch Wells.

To take part and to see full completion details visit www.powyswarmemorials.co.uk/competitions.

New service for victims of crime

A NEW service to support victims and witnesses of crime has been launched by Dyfed-Powys Police.

All recorded victims of crime will be referred to the Goleudy Victim and Witness Services, but those who have chosen not to report a crime they have experienced, can also contact the unit for free and confidential support.

The service will provide practical support, advice and guidance.

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Funds boost for community centre

A COMMUNITY centre which serves as a hub of local life for people in its village is one of 50 worthy causes across the UK to receive a £500 donation from a home improvement company.

Llanwddyn Community Centre in Powys was chosen by Anglian Home Improvements as one of its good causes to support as part of its 50th anniversary celebrations.

The company, which has a showroom on Willow Street in Oswestry, was inundated with requests from the likes of community groups, schools, local organisations and charities requiring new windows or doors, a financial donation, or another gesture of support.

The centre is run by a committee of local people and serves as a venue for regular activities such as fitness classes, line dancing and indoor bowls, as well as events such as the annual Lake Vyrnwy Half Marathon and the Llanwddyn Folk Festival, which attract visitors to the area from all over the country.

Spiritual group to meet up again

MEMBERS of Oswestry Spiritual Centre welcome Emily Baker from Ludlow as their guest medium at their meeting this evening (Thursday)

The meeting starts at 7.30pm and doors open at 7pm.

The event takes place at the Cambrian Room at the Memorial Hall in Oswestry and the cost is £3.50.

Val Laundy from the group said: "This is a spiritual demonstration with a difference. This is yet another way spirit find a way to communicate with us to prove that life continues but only in another dimension. Emily draws pictures of loved ones and friends and gives information about them. What a lovely way to know that your loved ones are happy and safe and you get a picture to take home."

Headteacher 'thrilled' with Lord's support

Report by Naomi Penrose

THE headteacher at The Marches School in Oswestry says she is "thrilled" renowned scientist Lord Robert Winston will be speaking at the school's Festival of Education.

The professor will be introduced by North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson at the festival on June 29.

Sarah Longville, executive headteacher of The Marches Academy Trust, said: "I am thrilled that Professor Robert Winston will be joining us at our Festival of Education and look forward to Robert Winston delivering a scientific perspective to child development and learning, based upon his extensive research."

The Regional Schools Commissioner for the West Midlands, Christine Quinn, will be opening and speaking at festival.

As part of her role, Ms Quinn is responsible for overseeing growth of academies across the region's 16 local authorities and closely monitors their performance.

Hundreds of Year 5 pupils from nine different primary schools will be attending the festival.

The pupils will take part in a number of activities and workshops.

The Festival of Education includes activities offered by The Education Group, Aardman Animation and Operating Theatre Live all of which are now fully booked.

Pupils from Cockshutt, Holy Trinity, Kinnerley, Morda, The Meadows, Trefonen, Weston Rhyn, Whittington and Woodside Primary Schools will be attending.

Pupils will be taking part in Chinese dance classes, workshops based around clay building, diya painting, forensic science, gamelan orchestras and fossils as well as a junior medic workshop which is being run by Operating Theatre Live.

Greek trip for school's youngsters



The students from The Marches School visited the town hall in Heraklion in Crete as part of their studies

STUDENTS from The Marches School in Oswestry have travelled to Greece as part of the Erasmus+ programme.

At the beginning of the week students visited Knossos Palace, the largest Bronze Age archaeological site on Crete which is considered Europe's oldest city. The next day, students visited the town hall in Heraklion to meet with the deputy mayor to hear how the town deals

with economic and social problems. Students also worked on their project work, reflecting on field-work studies and planning for their presentation which took place in the evening, followed by traditional Greek dancing.

On the last day, students visited an archaeological museum where they were guided around by an archaeologist and on the way they stopped at the picturesque town of

Margarites, which is famous for ceramics and traditional buildings. They finished the day with a visit to the seaside town of Rethymno for a traditional lunch of gyros and a walk around the old town.

Students began their long journey home from Crete via Athens and Zurich following some tearful departures to their fantastic hosts in Greece and to the friends they made in Sweden.

Police boss outlines his priorities for the future

PROTECTING communities from "serious threats" and safeguarding the vulnerable are among the priorities for Mid Wales's police and crime commissioner.

Police and crime commissioner for Dyfed-Powys Police Dafydd Llywelyn has announced his police and crime plan for the next four years, which was developed with chief constable Mark Collins, following consultation with officers, staff, partners and the public. He said: "My priorities in the plan are keeping our communities safe, safeguarding the vulnerable, protecting our communities from serious threats, and connecting with communities. I will be holding the chief constable to account in respect of delivery of this plan."

"The security and safety of the residents served by Dyfed-Powys Police is my priority as commissioner, and through the police and crime plan I have set the strategic direction and priorities for Dyfed-Powys Police during my term in office."

Mr Collins said: "I am responsible for safeguarding our communities through the delivery of efficient, effective and responsive policing. Our police and crime delivery plan sets out how we will deliver policing against the police and crime plan priorities. I look forward to working closely with the commissioner to ensure that we achieve the objectives of the plan – and we have prioritised the objectives on a short, medium and long-term basis. There is a number of key delivery principles, supporting victims, public engagement, working together, strong leadership, and value for money. As widely publicised, recent inspections by HMIC have graded Dyfed-Powys Police as requiring improvement in a number of areas – I acknowledge the challenge ahead but am confident that we can return to being a leading force in England and Wales."

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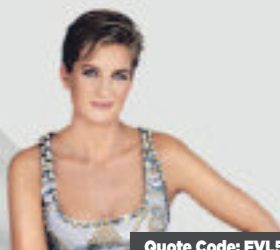


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Vineyard will be workshop setting

ARTIST Andrew Jenkin will be leading a watercolour workshop from the setting of a vineyard.

Kerry Vale Vineyard, on the Shropshire and Powys border, will host the workshop on Friday next week, which will be part of his Reflections on Nature exhibition currently running at the vineyard.

The workshop will run from 10.30am to 3.30pm with the theme of painting loose watercolour.

The day will cost £45 per person and includes lunch with a glass of Kerry Vale's award-winning wine.

The workshop will focus on painting trees and reflections in a loose style.

Participants will also learn new watercolour techniques, how to mix colours and how to use mixed media to add interest.

Call (01588) 620627 for details.

Students link up with electrical firm

STUDENTS from Oswestry's North Shropshire College's electrical studies department have started a working relationship with the local branch of City Electrical Factors (CEF).

CEF is an international company which has been running since 1951 and now has 400 outlets throughout the UK.

The students at have been supplied a CEF zip case to hold tools.

Account manager of CEF Oswestry Daniel Graham said: "Here at CEF we are proud to be working closely with North Shropshire College on the supply of their electrical equipment and the ongoing education for the students within their electrical department."

"Over the past months we have formed a strong relationship with tutor Jason Davies and his students. We intend to maintain these relationships going forward and become a strong asset for the college."

For more information at the college visit www.nsc.ac.uk

New High Sheriff outlines his priorities for year in office

THE new High Sheriff has spoken of the challenge ahead as he starts his duties in Shropshire.

Charles Lillis formally took on the role from Christine Holmes.

He was installed into the office at St John the Baptist Church in Whittington near Oswestry which is near his home.

As he steps up to the plate, like all those who have gone before him, the new Sheriff pledges his own commitment to the county and in his case, especially the increasing challenge of rural isolation.

In a county which rambles so wonderfully and offers so much, farmers and other country workers and often inhabitants can find year by year that they work and live alone day after day. Mr Lillis is very aware of this and said: "By rural isolation, I mean that as a sparsely inhabited county, many inhabitants of Shropshire inevitably suffer from the effects of rural isolation."

"Isolation can affect many different groups of people including, of course, the elderly, and can be particularly acute among the farming community. I shall therefore aim to highlight the work of those who alleviate rural isolation with a particular focus on the farming community."

His is a classic case of one High Sheriff leaving office, after a momentous year, as another one takes over, there will be stories to tell, memories to share and high hopes for the year ahead.

This year is no exception with one sheriff having made a real difference in so many areas of community life and a newcomer, hoping to do the same for the common good.

Shropshire is one of the most beautiful counties with its heritage, history and of course, its magnificent rural backdrop.

And the new High Sheriff is no exception, but this other, and perhaps more modern side to county glories, is one which Charles Lillis has taken very much on board and which he intends to bring to public attention and support wherever he can.



High Sheriff Charles Lillis was installed into the office at a service at St John the Baptist Church in Whittington

Mr Lillis, who lives with his wife Veronica, has quite a pedigree – no less than seven of his ancestors were High Sheriffs, four of them in Ireland and three in England.

This modern day inheritor of the Shropshire role was born in Drogheda in Ireland. After he had agreed to be nominated, he admits: "I suddenly

thought 'I only have an Irish passport.' But the issue was raised with the Privy Council and all was fine."

He was brought up on a farm near Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire, educated at Ampleforth College near York before going on to read classics at Christ Church, Oxford. He then spent more than 30 years in the City, first of all joining S. G. Warburg & Co.

A varied career in finance followed, including advising central banks of emerging countries on debt restructuring, raising equity capital for British and foreign companies and then

running an open ended fund management business.

He now acts as an independent adviser to industrial and financial enterprises on raising finance and is involved with charities and other bodies, both in Shropshire and London – as a trustee of several.

He is supported by wife Veronica who was brought up on a family farm near Bishops Castle and after living in London, the couple moved back to Shropshire 22 years ago.

The family is completed by daughter Rosie and son Johnny.

Rail firm rolls out wi-fi on all its trains

RAIL users in Mid Wales can now benefit from free wi-fi on all Arriva trains following completion of a multi-million pound investment scheme programme.

Passengers boarding anywhere on the Cambrian Line, from Pwllheli down to Machynlleth and Aberystwyth, across to Shrewsbury and Birmingham, are able to take advantage of the free wi-fi facility.

Phase one of the project, which was funded by nearly £2.5 million of investment from the Department of Transport, has seen all class 150, 158 and 175 trains receive the investment which allows passengers to connect to the internet while travelling.

It is hoped the investment will prove a major economic boost for the area, allowing people to work while travelling.

Aberystwyth station is also set to benefit from free wi-fi as part of phase two of the project, which will be funded by the Welsh Government.

The installation has been taking place at ATW's Machynlleth and Canton train maintenance depots over the last few months in partnership with the supplier, Icomera.

The wi-fi system has been fully operational throughout the installation programme.

It has already started to receive positive feedback from ATW customers.

Andrew Trigg, project manager, said due to some excellent collaboration between train engineers and the operations team, ATW has been able to get all of the trains completed ahead of schedule.

And Mr Trigg added: "The suppliers can fit, test and commission the entire system during a one night shift on one train."

The Welsh Government has now announced funding for a second phase of the project that will see the remainder of the ATW fleet fitted with wi-fi, including the 142,143, 153 and 'Gerald' units.

Free wifi will also be made available at the 50 busiest stations within Wales.

Charity shop is proving a success



Oswestry Mayor Paul Milner meets shop manager Rose Morris, centre, and some of the dedicated volunteers

A NEW charity shop in Oswestry has already extended its opening hours due to public demand.

Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin (Age UK STW) held a grand opening event at its new charity furniture shop in the town.

The shop on Smithfield Street is Age UK STW's third charity shop in Shropshire.

Bosses say it is an exciting new venture for the local charity, which aims to serve the town's community with high quality second-hand furniture,

while at the same time raising vital funds to support local older people across Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.

To celebrate the opening of the charity's latest shop Oswestry Mayor Paul Milner attended as guest of honour and cut the ribbon at the shop.

Due to popular demand, the shop will now also be open every Monday, excluding bank holidays.

The shop is open six days a week from Monday to Saturday, from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

Heather Osborne, chief executive of

Age UK STW, said: "We are delighted to have opened our furniture shop in Oswestry and it is proving to be very popular with people. Please do visit the shop and see what a great range of quality second hand furniture we have to offer."

The shop sells a wide range of furniture from beds and wardrobes to sofas, dining tables, book shelves and lamps. A free collection service is offered for anyone wishing to donate any furniture and there is also a delivery service too.

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Horse and vehicle accidents on rise

THE number of accidents involving horses and cars on roads in Shropshire have risen, according to The British Horse Society.

Last year in the county, nine incidents were reported compared to two the previous year. In total, 38 riders and 222 horses have died since the group started keeping records seven years ago.

The society also claims some riders have found themselves the target of road rage or abuse. It says bridleways are under threat which means riders are being forced on to public roads.

The organisation launched its Dead? Or Dead Slow? campaign last year to encourage drivers to pass horses safely.

The campaign aims to make drivers aware of what to do when they encounter horses on the road.

Drivers are encouraged to slow down to 15mph and leave a wide berth when passing horses. Meanwhile, riders can reduce the risk of accidents by wearing high-visibility clothing.

Jobless figure on the increase

THE number of people out of work in Shropshire has risen again, official figures have revealed.

The county's jobs market delivered its third consecutive monthly rise in March. The number of people claiming various forms of unemployment benefit in Shropshire hit 2,020 last month, up from 1,950 in February.

Telford also saw another increase, with 1,935 people signing on, compared with 1,830 the month before.

The latest figures mean that unemployment is now higher than it was a year ago in both areas. The local figures come despite the national unemployment tally falling to its lowest level in a decade.

Noted shooting estate has gone on the market

By Sue Austin

A SHOOTING estate partly designed by Portmeirion creator Clough Williams-Ellis has gone on the market.

The 774-acre estate, Llechweddygarth, in the beautiful Tanat Valley, includes a nine-bedroomed hall, five cottages, farm buildings, two ancient woodlands and a sporting rights with one of the top high pheasant shoots in Wales.

The price tag for owning a part of the valley is not being disclosed by estate agent Halls, which says it is available to prospective buyers.

Llechweddygarth, Llangynog, is centred around a Grade II listed, nine bedroomed hall overlooking the Tanat Valley.

Halls' chairman, Peter Willcock, said the sale also includes stone outbuildings including shoot rooms, five detached cottages on assured shorthold tenancies and traditional farm buildings with conversion potential.

As well as pasture land, hill grazing and woodland the estate also holds registered sporting rights over an additional 3,000 acres, which Mr Willcock said created great potential for further extension and development of the shoot.

"We are delighted to be offering for sale Llechweddygarth, which is an outstanding sporting estate with what is considered to be one of the best high pheasant shoots in Wales," Mr Willcock said.

The estate is just 20 miles from both Oswestry and Welshpool and the area is known for hill walking, hiking, pony trekking and fishing. It is 12 miles from Bala Lake.



Park of the spectacular Llechweddygarth estate in the Tanat Valley which has gone on the market through Halls

Office move delight for NFU Mutual

MEMBERS of The NFU Mutual Welshpool team say they are delighted to officially move into their new, larger commercial office in the heart of the town.

The team has moved to 20 Church Street. After six years at its former office in Puzzle Square, the opportunity arose for the business to expand and take up the larger space located on the main route way through the town - where the old Spar use to be located.

Senior agent at NFU Mutual Welshpool, Stephen Kenyon said: "We had outgrown our existing premises so were looking for a larger office space."

"Our new office at 20 Church Street is superb, making us a flagship agency. As soon as our clients walk in their attention is grabbed by the eye-catching feature wall, large open space and sophisticated features and look."

"The project has been in planning for almost two years and now I'm thrilled to announce the doors are officially open for business."

Planned Office Interiors was tasked with the 12-week project to renovate the existing 290sqm ground floor space to create a large, modern and airy office.

School friends plea for memories

THE search has started for memorabilia from a school for display at a Goodbye Fair.

Gungrog Church in Wales School Friends are calling on former staff, pupils and parents to come forward with memorabilia to be displayed at a Goodbye Gungrog Fair to be held on July 7 between 5pm and 7pm.

Anyone with something to offer should contact the school or Angela at angelou1984@gmail.com

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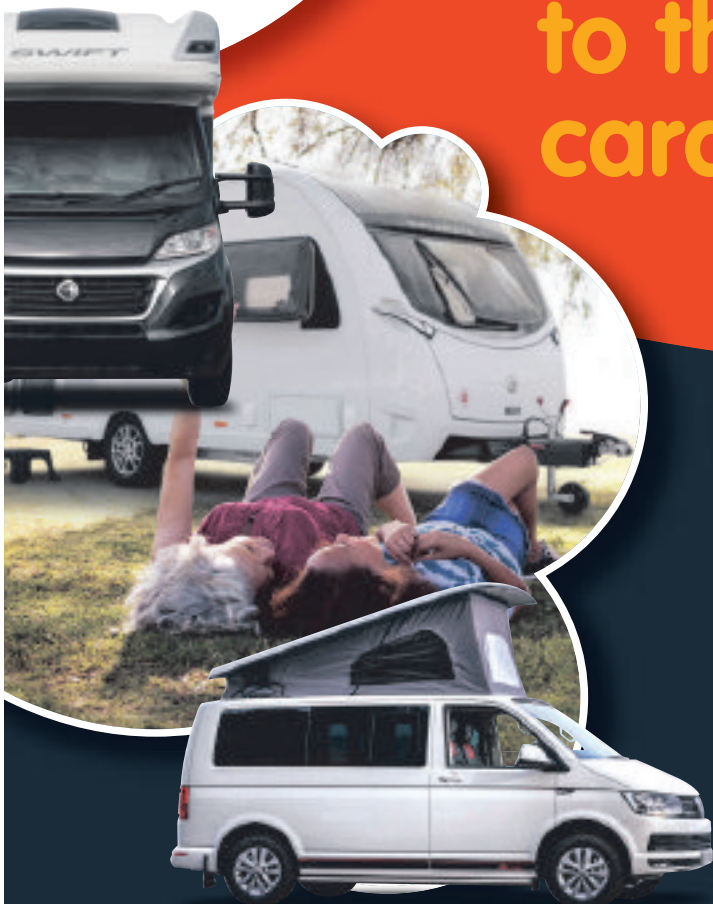
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Movement centre is subject of talk

THE work of The Movement Centre was the subject of a talk at a recent rotary club meeting in Oswestry.

The centre is based at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital but is run independently from the hospital.

Founded more than 20 years ago, the charity has developed Targeted Training, tailored evidence based special care for children whose disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, developmental delays and other problems, affect their movement control.

Curtis Langley, fundraising and physiotherapy assistant at The Movement Centre, was the speaker at the recent meeting of The Rotary Club of Oswestry when he described the specialist physiotherapy and bioengineering techniques used by the centre to mimic the natural development of control in newborn infants.

Mr Langley said the specialist therapy was ineligible for NHS funding so the charity works hard to receive the support of many individuals, charitable trusts, foundations and companies.

AM issues call on farming funding

MEASURES must be taken to allay the fears of Mid Wales farmers following Brexit, Montgomeryshire Assembly Member Russell George, said.

Mr George said the biggest concern of the farming sector relates to the future of subsidies, and in particular how that funding is distributed to Welsh farmers. He is calling for assurances that farm payments will be ring-fenced and remain outside the usual budget process. "Without ring-fencing this important funding, money for Mid Wales agriculture, would be forced to compete with other public services like the Welsh NHS and schools," he said.

Health awareness day to take place at library

Report by Sue Austin

A HEALTH awareness day will be held in Oswestry on Saturday.

The event, which takes place at Oswestry Library between 10am and 1pm, has been organised by the Rotary Club of Oswestry and the library.

The event will give people the chance to find out more about their own health and meet groups that can give help and support.

More than 20 groups are expected to take part.

It will be opened by the cyclists from the 'Team Smells Like Toast' group who will have just returned from their 500-mile sponsored cycle ride from Oswestry to twin-town Combs-la-Ville to raise money for charity.

Hazel Yates from the rotary club said: "Building on last year's success, when more than 500 people visited the first joint event, this year we have the theme 'Look After Yourself'."

"Surveys show that the majority of people, 92 per cent, feel it is important to take responsibility for their own health to ease the burden on the NHS."

"This event will give people the chance to be proactive and meet groups including district nurses, Diabetes Support, Macmillan Nurses, Disability Oswestry, Boots the Chemist, Oswestry Stroke Club, Alzheimer's Society and Oswestry Deaf & Hard of Hearing Forum."

Visitors will again have the opportunity to ride a special smoothie bike to make themselves a free fruit smoothie under their own pedal power.

The visitors can also enjoy a neck or hand massage courtesy of Time for You, and have their blood pressure checked.

Help needed to keep trains on track



There are lots of opportunities for volunteers to help out on the railway

A HERITAGE railway is in need of a helping hand, with a plea for more volunteers to help keep it on track.

The Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway, which opened in 1903 to link the market town of Welshpool to the rural community of Llanfair Caereinion, now carries thousands of tourists and rail enthusiasts along

the Banwy Valley each year. The narrow gauge steam railway allows for tight curves and steep gradients, enabling the line to follow the contours of the countryside and the carriages, imported from Hungary and Austria, include an open balcony, perfect for tourists.

Members of the trust which runs

the railway are appealing for more people to get on board and help run the tourist line.

They say there are scores of different ways in which volunteers can help.

Anyone who is interested should contact (01938) 811378 or email volunteerliaison@wllr.org

Drink-drive figures lead to warning to motorists

MORE than 1,000 people have been arrested and convicted of drink-driving across Shropshire in the last two years – ranging in age from 16 to 77.

Between the start of 2015 and last month, 769 drivers in Shropshire were caught drink-driving. Meanwhile, in Telford, 213 motorists were caught drink-driving in 2015, with 32 caught up until March this year.

The figures show that despite widespread campaigns, the problem is getting slightly worse year-on-year, seeing six more convictions in 2016 than in 2015.

The findings, from a Freedom of Information Act request, revealed a 16-year-old was caught on a moped while under the influence. The oldest to be convicted in the last two years was 77.

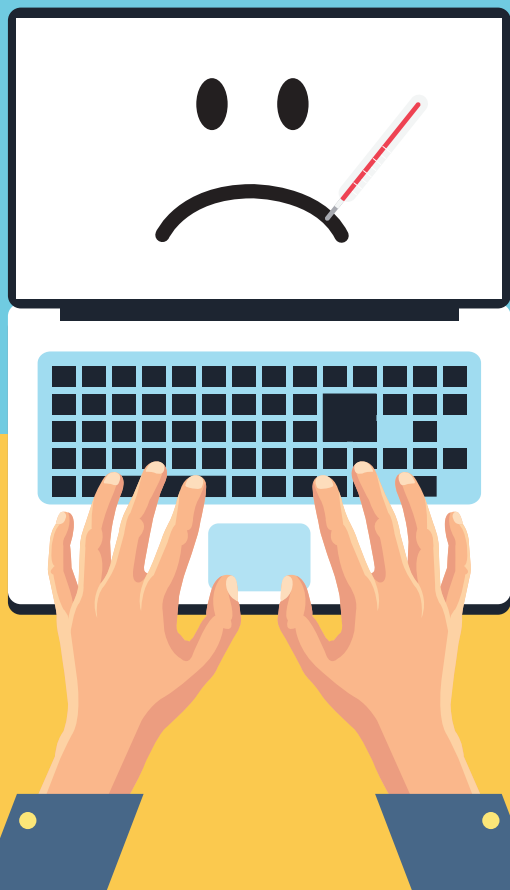
Those caught drink-driving face a minimum 12-month driving ban, up to six months in prison and a fine of up to £5,000.

Anna Higgins, of the Safer Roads Partnership in West Mercia, said: "Enforcing the drink and drug drive law is a 24/7 commitment for West Mercia Police."

"Unfortunately there are still people out there who feel they can gamble with drinking and driving and think they know how much the limit is. Ongoing enforcement and targeted campaigns continue to take place to remind motorists of the dangers of drinking and driving, and crack down on those who choose to drive after drinking alcohol."

"As the data highlights, drinking and driving is not being carried out by one particular age group. It is a choice and unfortunately one which too many motorists think they can risk despite the consequences if caught."

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Idyllic countryside cottage with land and holiday lets

The sale of Craig Las at Llangynog, is a fantastic opportunity to acquire an idyllic four-bedroomed country residence in two acres of land, with two self-contained holiday let units and outbuildings included.

With another two to three acres available to rent, it is for sale through Town & Country at £485,000.

The property lies in an elevated private position with a dramatic backdrop over the hillside and Tanat Valley. Being very well maintained, Craig Las provides comfortable living whilst retaining original features. The holiday accommodation currently gives the owners a steady income stream, whilst the property still has great potential for further development of the other outbuildings.

The main house has a porch with quarry tiled flooring, a snug/hallway with the same flooring and a beamed ceiling and walls, a stone fireplace and a door to the annexe area.

Again with quarry tiled flooring, the lounge has a beamed ceiling, a large inglenook fireplace with a log burner inset on a flagged hearth and beam over, exposed stone walling and stairs to the first floor.

The annexe has a split staircase with stairs leading down to the lounge and stairs up to the bedroom. The lounge has wooden flooring, a log burner stove and spotlights. Glazed doors leads through to the sun room with tiled flooring and stunning views.

Outside, the grounds surround the cottage on all sides with paddocks and garden areas. There is a productive vegetable garden with soft fruit beds. A polytunnel and greenhouse are also available. The holiday lets have their own private gardens away from the main gardens.

There is also a detached workshop and a hot tub area with a changing area. Outbuildings include a stone barn and a stone store. There is also garaging. The first holiday let has a kitchen/diner with appliances, shower room, first floor lounge with a wood burning stove and two bedrooms. The second holiday let has a kitchen/diner with appliances, a lounge area with a wood burning stove, inner hall, ground floor bedroom, landing bedroom, further bedroom and a bathroom.

KEY FEATURES

Idyllic country cottage

4 bedrooms

2 acres with 2-3 available to rent

2 holiday lets

Outbuildings

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OSWESTRY
£420,000

Superb spacious executive property has seven bedrooms

A superbly spacious executive detached residence, 15 Upperwell Close, Oswestry has seven bedrooms, three reception rooms and four bathrooms.

It is for sale through Town & Country at £420,000. Enjoying an enviable position within this most sought after location with superb views to the rear, its accommodation briefly comprises a porch, hallway, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen/dining room, study, utility room, seven bedrooms, two en-suite and two family bathrooms. To the outside there are gardens to the front and the rear with views. A detached double garage and double width driveway provides off-road parking. The property is situated in a sought after residential area of Oswestry, with close proximity to the town centre, with an abundance of shops and supermarkets.



A secondary school, primary school and doctors surgery are within walking distance. The property is also only a few minutes walk from open countryside.

In more detail the porch has quarry tiled flooring. The hallway has stairs off and an under-stairs storage cupboard. The cloakroom/WC has part tiled splash-backs. A lovely light room, the lounge has a large bay window with glazed side panels and French doors opening onto the rear garden, a decorative stone cast fireplace with an electric fire and French doors to the garden. The good sized dining room has a large square bay window to the front. In the kitchen/dining room, the kitchen has an extensive range of base and wall kitchen units in an oak colour with work surfaces over, integral wine fridge, integral Whirlpool dishwasher, 1½ bowl sink with mixer tap, Whirlpool double stainless steel oven, gas hob, integral extractor fan, tiled flooring, integral fridge/freezer, under unit lighting and part tiled walls. The study is positioned at the front and the utility has a sink, units, plumbing for a washing machine, space for a fridge and a door to the rear. Upstairs on the first floor, the master bedroom has wardrobes, a dressing table and an en-suite. There are five further bedrooms (one en-suite) and a bathroom on this floor. On the second floor are bedrooms six and seven and a bathroom. The rear garden is a particular feature of the property due to its size and orientation. It has a paved patio across the rear of the house, extensive lawn and views over the top of Oswestry and the far reaching hills beyond.

Contact Town and Country on 01691 679631.

Period property enjoys lovely accommodation and great views

SELATTYN
£625,000 >>>

A wonderful period property with delightful accommodation and many period features, Ty Pant, Selattyn, Oswestry lies in an imposing position set within around 12 acres with glorious distant views.

It is for sale through Halls at £625,000 with no chain.

It has a kitchen/dining room, a lounge, a feature fireplace with a Clear View multi fuel stove set in a chimney breast with a bream over, a family room and French doors to a balcony.

There is a sun room and French doors to a balcony running along three sides.

The property also has a hall, dining room, an office, five bedrooms (including a mezzanine master bedroom with en-suite shower room and a dressing room), with some feature beams, a bathroom, spiral staircase down to a utility, cloakroom and a hobby room.

The home benefits from cottage gardens and land.

Contact Halls on 01691 670320 or visit www.hallsgb.com for more information about this property.



Super Georgian country house has lawns and tennis court

OSWESTRY
£1,250,000 <<<

A fully restored Georgian country house adjoining parkland and open countryside, Pen-y-Llan Hall on the edge of Oswestry is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £1,250,000.

It has a vestibule, entrance hall, inner hall, drawing room, study, morning room, dining room, conservatory, cloakroom/WC, sitting room, playroom, kitchen, utility room, pantry and cellars.

It also has a master bedroom with dressing room and en-suite bathroom, four further bedrooms all en-suite, bedroom six, dressing room, two attic rooms, a bathroom, detached former annexe with planning permission for a workshop, stores, kitchen, cloakroom/WC, garaging and domestic buildings.

There are also lawned gardens and a tennis court and woodland of around 2.8 acres.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.

Spacious town house is sited in a quiet position near amenities

OSWESTRY
£159,950 >>>

A spacious town house with off-street parking, 24 Beresford Gardens in Oswestry is located in a quiet position within walking distance of the town centre.

It is on the market through JJ Dell&Co with a guide price of £159,950 and there is no chain. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and there is an entrance hall, cloakroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, front garden and two parking spaces. The property occupies a convenient position within the town only a few minutes walking distance into the town's shopping centre. The home is an end-terraced house traditionally constructed of brick under a slated roof. The accommodation has the benefit of recently recovered roof, gas fired central heating and pvc double glazing. Outside the property has the benefit of off street parking to the front, providing two spaces.

Contact JJ Dell&Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



Three bedroomed farmhouse linked to renovated barn

GLYNDYFRDWY
£295,000

Three bedroom farmhouse, Ty Lawr, is linked to a renovated barn, perfect for the aspirational artisan from author to artist.

The adjoining flexible accommodation would suit a home business with workshop, studio, or consultancy. Ty Lawr is found five miles from Llangollen at Glyndyfrdwy, with Oswestry, Chester and Shrewsbury all within a sensible commute. There is an excellent primary school two miles away, with Llangollen providing not only local shops, but the renowned canal and River Dee for fishing and canoeing.

Nearby to the steading are five acres of meadow and woodland providing a wonderful amenity and oasis for nature and satisfying source for sustainable fuel for the farmhouse and barn.

Agent Duncan Scobie of Balfours who is marketing Ty Lawr with a guide price of £295,000, comments: "This is a truly captivating Welsh borders farmhouse, it is private and secluded, but not isolated.



Superb cottage with balcony is in location on edge of forest

LLANGADFAN
£175,000 <<<

Bliss Cottage, 4 Hendre, Llangadfan, is a delightfully charming two-bedroomed semi-detached cottage in a beautiful location on the edge of Dyfnant Forest.

Having a balcony, separate lounge and dining room, kitchen and wet room, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £175,000.

A number of external items may be available by separate negotiation including a wood fired hot tub, an attractive insulated "Hobbit House" with wood stove, a large timber shed and a timber potting shed/greenhouse. From the paved patio the gardens lead across the front of the house with a raised lawn in a sunny position with good views.

A pathway then leads to large side gardens with woodland beyond.

There is a stream-fed pond and a second still pond.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more information.



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New rules for GPs will limit prescriptions

GPs have been instructed not to write prescriptions for treatments that can be bought over the counter.

The ruling has been made by health commissioners in Telford as part of a drive to "educate" patients – and Shropshire may follow suit.

It means people who normally get drugs through a prescription for milder conditions must now buy them directly from pharmacies, shops and supermarkets.

Remedies affected including drugs for back pain, minor skin conditions, acne, heartburn and allergies such as hay fever. NHS bosses insist the move is to free up the time of GPs rather than cut costs.

Telford and Wrekin clinical commissioning group says it wants to "educate patients and prioritise NHS resources". A similar policy is also "under review" by Shropshire CCG. Telford CCG says it will give more time for GP appointments with patients with more serious conditions.

Dr Jo Leahy, clinical chairwoman of the CCG, said: "We want to help educate people that many common conditions can be treated with over the counter medicines from a pharmacy or supermarket.

"There is no need to see a GP or get a prescription. Dealing with minor conditions has now become a major issue for the NHS nationally.

"The cost of treating minor ailments has risen to around £2 billion and if people with minor ailments used a pharmacy instead of a GP it would free up 57 million GP appointments per year for patients with more serious problems."

She said people are able to see pharmacists with no appointment necessary and the changes will help patients gain increased awareness of which minor conditions they can manage at home.

Safety move is welcomed

A PIONEERING virtual reality app designed to promote road safety has been welcomed by West Mercia's police and crime commissioner John Campion.

Representatives from West Mercia's Safer Roads Partnership visited the commissioner to demonstrate the recently launched app, DriveVR.

The app is intended to show drivers that split second decisions can have long term effects for drivers, passengers and pedestrians, by immersing users, and literally putting them in the driving seat.

The app was created with the input of police cadets to be aimed at others of a similar age group.

It is being provided for around 5,000 young people each year as part of the green light programme.

It focuses on common causes of road traffic collisions including speeding, mobile phones, drink driving and drug driving.

Mr Campion said: "Too many people are killed or seriously injured on our roads, in collisions which could have been prevented.

"Education is vitally important to ensure everyone understands the impact of making a decision which puts road users at risk.

"I am keen to ensure that resources continue to be in place to change people's perceptions and behaviours in order to prevent collisions on our roads.

Campaign aims to reduce deaths

A CAMPAIGN aimed at lowering casualties and deaths on West Midlands roads has been launched for 2017.

Think Bike has been set up by the Safer Roads partnership in West Mercia and Warwickshire to raise awareness about road safety for motorcyclists and other road users.

As part of the campaign posters have been put up in areas where collisions have previously taken place.

Bikers who have not ridden their motorcycles during the winter months are being encouraged to make safety checks before heading out again.

Vicki Bristow, of the Safer Roads Partnership said: "We're aiming to make motorcyclists and other road users more aware of the risks when out on the roads and to help us reduce the amount of collisions that take place".

Traditional poultry competitions banned from county show in light of avian flu restrictions

Report by Lucy Todman

He said: "We are very sorry that poultry keepers will not be able to bring their birds to the show this year, but we have to abide by the conditions set by Defra.

"We appreciate the situation could change by the date of the show, but we felt it was important to make a decision now to avoid any uncertainty in the coming months.

"We all hope the avian influenza outbreak will have run its course by the time next year's show comes around when we very much look forward to welcoming the poultry section back to Shropshire County Show."

Strict controls are currently in place across

the UK following the discovery of avian influenza in December last year.

There are a number of 'higher risk areas' – including two in Shropshire – where poultry keepers have to either keep their birds housed in permanent or temporary sheds or allow birds outdoors but only into a fenced run which is fully covered by netting.

Similar action has been taken by agricultural shows across the UK and Ireland.

Public Health England says the risk to public health is very low and the Food Standards Agency has said there is no food safety risk for UK consumers.

Meanwhile, poultry keepers in Mid Wales are being reminded of the need to have appropriate safeguards in place now that a new pro-

tection zone has been implemented.

The new Avian Influenza Prevention Zone lasts until April 30 and requires all poultry keepers to follow enhanced biosecurity measures to minimise the risk of infection from wild birds.

Keepers of poultry and other captive birds in the new Avian Influenza Prevention Zone must ensure they complete the Welsh Government Avian Influenza Prevention Zone self-assessment form.

They must also adopt one or more of the guidance provided, which includes housing their birds, keeping them totally separate from wild birds by use of netting and allowing controlled access to outside areas, subject to applying additional risk-mitigation measures.

Taxpayer left with £68,000 bill for overseas treatment

Report by Mark Andrews

SHROPSHIRE hospitals have had to stump up more than £68,000 to treat overseas patients who were not eligible for NHS care over the past four years, new figures have revealed.

Figures obtained under the Freedom of Information Act revealed that Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust (SATH) spent just over £186,308 treating patients who were not entitled to use the National Health Service from 2013 to 2017.

The trust was reimbursed for £118,150 of this.

That means the taxpayer was left to find the remaining £68,158.

The figures also revealed that over the past two years, a total of 33 patients from outside the EU were treated at hospitals in the county, 20 of whom were not eligible for free NHS care.

The most expensive years for the tax-payer were 2014/15, when the trust failed to recover the cost of treatments totalling £26,455, and 2015/16 when it rose to £35,098.

However, the figure has fallen substantially in recent months.

Since November 2, the trust has treated four non-EU patients at a cost of £11,117, but has recovered £9,228 leaving a shortfall of just £1,889.

The Taxpayers' Alliance said bills would inevitably come at the cost of local patients.

John O'Connell, chief executive of the alliance, said that while hospitals should not turn away patients who needed emergency treatment, hospitals need to do more to recover the cost of the care afterwards.

He said: "At a time when health bosses are saying they're strapped for cash it's absolutely imperative that more is done to recoup costs."

"Those in need of emergency care while in Britain should get treatment but these are significant sums of taxpayers' money that end up being written off."

"The trust have done quite well so far in recouping a lot of the money they are owed but clearly there is still more to do."

"Every pound that is not recovered in unpaid bills is a pound that can't go towards front line care."

Shropshire and Telford Hospital Trust spokesman David Burrows said: "The trust has always actively pursued all overseas debt and refers outstanding debts to a third party collection agent."

Innovative move reflects care for staff welfare



Pictured with the new mirrors and magnets are, from left, staff nurse Vicky Wards, Sister Jackie Barry and staff nurse Lizzy Horn

ANYONE who has suffered a bad back knows how debilitating it can be.

It is a condition that has seen many patients seek out the care of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Now one ward at the hospital has introduced a new tool to help nurses avoid getting bad backs of their own – and the innovation has proved so successful that it is to be rolled out across the hospital.

The simple change has seen nurses on Sheldon Ward, the hospital's dedicated Care of the Elderly Ward, issued with pocket-sized mirrors to help them monitor the heels of vulnerable patients without having to repeatedly

bend over. The mirrors are accompanied by a small foot-shaped magnet that can be discreetly attached to a patient's chart, alerting staff to patients who require regular monitoring.

Lorna Edwards, ward manager on Sheldon Ward, said: "We often have patients with vulnerable heels, and to assess this it often involves nurses almost standing on their heads; which is obviously not good for their backs."

"While searching on Twitter, I found a company called Respond2pressure, who have designed a shatterproof mirror to attach to a nurse's uniform pocket. It's a simple idea which makes it easier to see hard to see places

on our patients." The initiative has also been supported by Director of Nursing Bev Tabernacle, who has been impressed by the impact of the pocket mirrors.

She said: "It's a testament to the innovation of our ward managers, who are constantly thinking of new ways to improve patient care at RJAH. Sometimes our nursing staff are bending over backwards – quite literally!"

"Lorna has found a brilliant solution to a problem which can give our nurses back pain, which in turn could see them taking time off work."

"This idea is so good that I am arranging for it to be rolled out across the trust."

Only one person arrested for 'legal highs' offences

ONLY one person has been arrested by police covering Shropshire over 'legal highs' since new laws were brought in.

The person was cautioned for the supply of drugs referred to as psychoactive substances, a category which includes drugs like Spice and M-Cat that are often described as legal highs.

At one point they were sold readily, but are now mostly illegal after new laws came in last year following after a spate of deaths.

One Shropshire woman who has campaigned against the sale of the substances says the figures show that more needs to be done.

Charlotte Delo's brother Jamie Penn died in 2014 after a violent reaction to the then-legal drug 4,4-DMAR.

Mr Penn, a trainee bricklayer from the Hadley area of Telford, died on May 31, 2014, after buying the drug from a woman in Shrewsbury.

Mrs Delo has been campaigning against the dangers of psychoactive substances since his death.

She said: "Definitely more still needs to be done, people are still out selling it. It is rife it is everywhere. More needs to be done in schools, in colleges, making kids aware of the dangers."

Mrs Delo, 29, from Hadley said she has been working closely with Telford & Wrekin Council over the issue. She said she feels people are still "naive" to the dangers of the drugs.

She said: "It is dangerous, full stop."

The Psychoactive Substances Act came into effect on May 26, 2016.

The West Mercia figures were released as part of a Freedom Of Information request to the force, where it searched through all offences and arrests under the Psychoactive Substances Act and for incidents and offences where there were references for Bliss, Mary-

jane, Salvia, Laughing Gas, Nitrous, Oxide, Whippetts, Chargers, Bulbs, Mamba, Hippy Crack, K2, BZ, Spice, Synthetic, Cannabinoid, legal high or psychoactive.

In 2015, 114 deaths were registered in England and Wales as a result of psychoactive substances, up from 82 the previous year.

In the West Midlands region, there were 15 deaths registered in 2014 and six in 2015.

In December last year, the force launched a campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of psychoactive substances, warning that users are playing Russian Roulette with their lives.

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Comedy chaos? We'll guarantee it

BOGIES! One simple word that sums up the Saturday mornings of a generation. Now, more than 10 years later, comedy duo Dick and Dom, or Richard McCourt and Dominic Wood, are back with their live tour.

It reaches the Core Theatre in Solihull on April 22, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall on August 17 and Stafford Gatehouse on October 29.

The pair sat down with The Ticket to fill us in on what mad capers fans can expect from the show.

"Basically we split the crowd into two different teams so we have the Dick vs the Dom," says Dom.

"We play loads of different games, we bring the crowd up on stage to play games as well and then whoever wins the round gets a point for their team. Then the team with the most points wins!"

Nothing is this simple in the world of Dick and Dom – and anything can happen on their live tour, with each night promising to be different.

"We've been doing it for about five or six years now but this is the first time we've done it as a UK tour," says Dick.

"It's really good fun, it's one of those shows that has the same sort of feel as Dick and Dom in Da Bungalow with all of the chaos – you just don't know what's going to happen!"

FLASH

"We can't wait to return to the Midlands, it has great audiences. We did our last tour in Birmingham in front of thousands of people and it was really warm."

Dick and Dom are famed for their own brand of whimsical chaos on our TV screens, a style that they adapted to stage in a flash.

"We've been doing this for more than 20 years now, so a lot of the ideas now have just been crafted over time that we know work," says Dick.

"The live show Dick vs Dom is basically a culmination of everything we've done over the years in one package. We're like one big joke book, one big file of different routines, show bits, festival bits and we just put all of that together for our live shows."

With such an extensive array of kooky highlights from their career – what's their favourite?

"We really have to look back at Dick and Dom in Da Bungalow for that, that's one of our favourite things that we have ever done, and obviously it had the very famous game 'Bogies' that has stayed with the audience ever since," Dick tells us.

"Obviously that audience has grown up now and we have taken it with us when we've done university tours. It's become a classic, it was on BBC One, BBC Two and all these digital channels afterwards for people to watch."

"The 'Bogies' game just sticks, I don't know what it is with it! It channels that sort of Horrid Henry and Dennis the Menace sort of vibe that people love," Dom continues.

"We brought it back recently for Comic Relief and doing it again, as 40 year olds, was just great!"

"It's funny that most children who are watching us on BBC now, when you write bogies on an autograph they have no idea why you've put it!"

Dick and Dom's career started more than 20 years ago, after years of hard work.

"At the young age of 18 I was a tea boy and a runner and I started at the bottom and worked my way up," Dick tells us.

Dom adds: "As for me, I was a jobbing magician in

Capers – Dick and Dom bring their live show to the Midlands



the south west, and I used that in a job interview and just worked really hard.

"We were then both presenters for the CBBC but we weren't comedians really, then there was this props guy who worked behind the scenes and he used to be like 'oh, here comes Dick and Dom!' and it just stuck."

"From that moment we got picked up by producer Steve Ride and he just developed our act even more and then we discovered we could just do fun things. It just came naturally, it wasn't a conscious decision by us."

From this, a whole new generation of comedy lovers was born as children tuned into their TV screens to catch a glimpse of the raucous duo.

In 2002, iconic programme Dick and Dom in Da Bungalow first aired and it was a programme that

The 'Bogies' game just sticks . . . it channels that sort of Horrid Henry vibe

changed the duo's lives forever and led to further shows such as Diddy Movies, Dick and Dom's Hoopla, Absolute Genius and more.

"Making the Bungalow was absolutely amazing. As teenagers all we wanted to do was to become CBBC presenters but more so, the ultimate goal was to work on Saturday morning on BBC One," Dom enthuses.

"When we eventually got the call to say they wanted us to do that, we just didn't know what to do, it was amazing. That's just half the battle, the other half is just making sure everyone loves it and thankfully we succeeded."

"We all had an absolute riot making it, every single week we were howling with laughter. Everyone there genuinely was having the best time. It led to so many amazing things afterwards, it opened so many doors."

It's not just TV Dick and Dom have mastered, they've also had stints in theatre starring in the likes of Spamalot, Aladdin and Dick Whittington.

"It's instant gratification really, you see everyone having a great time in front of you," Dick tells us.

We wonder, what's coming up for the duo? "We can't reveal everything yet, but we do have a lot of really exciting things to look forward to!" Dom says. "We're stacked up, and we do have some absolute crackers in the works, but we just can't reveal all yet!"

Becci Stanley

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Shropshire Star every Friday.

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Walking festival will have vintage feel

An annual walking festival on the Shropshire border will be taking on a vintage feel this year with the launch of a tweed walk and Prosecco.

The event will be part of Llangollen Walking Festival, running from April 29 to May 1, and will take in the Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Organiser Mike Smart said: "It's a jolly wheeze we thought-up to complement our annual Llangollen Walking Festival and we feel meets the current interest in all things vintage and retro.

"Also, as 2017 is visit Wales's Year of Legends, we are not only sharing our North Wales legends with our visitors, we are creating a new one.

"The tweed walk will start in Llangollen's beautiful riverside restaurant The Corn Mill for tea and coffee and locally made Welsh cakes, then there will be a short walk to the Llangollen Railway Station from where we will enjoy a nostalgic steam train ride along the River Dee.

"The guided walk will be visiting historic locations with a friendly tweed-clad guide who will gently lead and share with you

his knowledge of local history, folk tales and legends, of which Llangollen has a great many, ranging from ruthless giants, fighting monks, fairy kings, real Arthurian legends, a demon barber and the holy grail, to name but a few.

"We will finish the day in the famous Gales Wine Bar Hotel and Restaurant for a refreshing Prosecco and canapés. Certificates will be presented, plus a special prize for the best dressed vintage ramblers."

For more information about the walk visit www.llangollenwalkingfestival.co.uk



Coming up

Mondays announce Brum date

Manchester's legendary Happy Mondays have announced a twenty-five date tour of the UK and Ireland for later this year – and the tour will include a show in Birmingham for their many West Midlands and Shropshire fans.

The 'Twenty Four Hour Party People – Greatest Hits Tour' has been announced for November and December.

It comes on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the band's debut album 'Squirrel and G-Man Twenty Four Hour Party People Plastic Face Cant Smile (White Out)'.

Frontman Shaun Ryder said: "I am really looking forward to the Mondays' shows leading up to Christmas 2017. "We're performing better than ever and I love getting together with the band, blasting out all our great tunes we've made together over the decades."

Bez, the group's dancer and percussionist, added: "Just as I thought it was all over, the party's starting again. Look forward to seeing you all." Happy Mondays will play the O2 Institute in Birmingham on December 6, with tickets on sale now.

The band became a leading light in the Manchester independent music scene of the 1980s and the emerging UK rave scene, drawing influence from acid house, funk, and psychedelia to pioneer the Madchester sound. They experienced their commercial peak with the releases of Bummed in 1988, Madchester Rave On in 1989, and Pills 'n' Thrills and Bellyaches in 1990.



Dancer Giovanni ready to hot foot it to stage

Strictly Come Dancing's Giovanni Pernice is coming to Mid Wales as part of his first UK tour Dance Is Life.

He will be appearing at The Hafren in Newtown on July 8 at 7.30pm.

Ahead of the tour, Giovanni spoke about the show, and where the inspiration came from.

He said: "Il ballo e vita' translates to 'Dance is Life' and is a saying that I have always believed in. Dance is something I have wanted to do all my life so this is where the inspiration for the show came from. The show is not just a dance and talk show but a beautiful story, taking place in a Sicilian café with eight amazing world class dancers. The show is different to every other dance show, not only will the audience get have an insight into what I am really like, but also it tells a wonderful story of love and life. I am dancing with the amazing Luba Muskut, plus we have three more professional couples from the world of dance."

The performer recently set a Guinness World Record by managing 55 jive kicks and flicks in 30 seconds. He explained: "I have been practising all my life, Jive is my favourite style so I always like to practise more than the other dances and I am really pleased with the result. When I was young I used to watch Come Dancing in Italy and I liked the connection between the males and females and the beauty of the movement and chemistry between the two dancers. I was always a fan of the show so I auditioned. It was great for them to pick me, it was a dream come true. It's just like a big family. Everyone is working towards the same goal and working for the same reason."

And his three Strictly moments so far? He said: "The first dance I did in my first year. It was all new and exciting yet scary to work on something new. Nothing can replace that feeling. When I reached the final as it was great to know that the public appreciated and loved the work I did with my celebrity partner. The group numbers, I enjoy working with the professionals to create a dramatic and spectacular piece."

Strictly Come Dancing's Giovanni Pernice is coming to a Mid Wales theatre with his new dance show



Lady Gaga is in big demand

Lady Gaga's Joanne World Tour - one of 2017's hottest tours - keeps getting hotter and hotter with sold out shows and additional dates added in response to extremely high demand throughout North America and Europe.

Due to ongoing fan demand, three final concerts have been added to the Joanne World Tour line-up in 2017 including a date confirmed at Birmingham's Genting Arena on October 12. This is in addition to her date at the Barclaycard Arena. Tickets for the new show are now on sale.

Gaga will be travelling the globe with the Joanne World Tour, performing the concert dates throughout Europe and the UK before returning to North America in November and December this year.

Grammy and Golden Globe winner and Academy Award-nominated Lady Gaga is a one-of-a-kind artist and performer. She has amassed an outstanding 30 million global album sales and 150 million single sales, making her one of the best-selling musicians of all time.

Gaga is also one of the biggest forces in social media with over 61 million likes on Facebook, over 65.1 million followers on Twitter and over 21.3 million followers on Instagram.

Her fifth studio album 'Joanne' was recently released and debuted at number one on the Billboard Top 200, marking her fourth consecutive number one album - the first female to do so in the 2010s.



Indie band added to Llanfest acts

Indie band Reverend and The Makers & Radio 1 regular Huw Stephens have been added to the line-up of a festival taking place over the Shropshire/North Wales border, supporting Welsh legends Manic Street Preachers.

Renowned for 2007 hit, Heavyweight Champion of the World, Reverend and The Makers will treat festival-goers to classic songs and hits from the album Mirrors.

Best known for his weekly appearances on BBC Radio 1 and BBC Cymru C2, Stephens is a firm supporter of BBC introducing and will bring an eclectic mix of inspired tracks and undiscovered gems to Llanfest in Llangollen, setting the tone for the evening line-up.

Llanfest takes place on July 9. The day will begin with performances on the outside stages by acts including Roving Crows, Army of Skanks, Ben Roberts, Buddy Holly and the Black Jacks, Captain Zed, Delta Radio, Full Circle, Living Sounds, Mr Blunders, Skeet Williams, Thunderbug, Tom Wilson and Y Goggs.

Performances will run from 2pm on all three outdoor stages and promises festival-goers the chance to experience both local and international acts in stunning surroundings.

The festival's music director, Eilir Owen Griffiths, said: "With the full Llanfest line-up now announced, I'm certain this year will be the biggest ever hosted at the International Eisteddfod and to say the team is excited in an understatement."



NOTICE BOARD

* THE Friends of the Marches are inviting members of the community and staff to attend a quiz night in aid of The Marches School on May 17.

The general knowledge quiz is open to staff, parents and the wider community. It will take place at the school in Oswestry from 7pm.

Tickets cost £5 per head, to include table wine and snacks, with a maximum of six members per team.

Raffle prizes also available to be won during the evening with the final winners of the quiz receiving a £100 voucher to spend at local Italian restaurant, Lepones.

Martyn Hubbard, chair of The Friends of The Marches, said: "We are hoping that the quiz night will be a launch for

greater achievements from The Friends of the Marches.

"We can only achieve this with help from the wider school community, parents and carers, staff and students.

"Please come along, support the school and introduce yourself.

"Come prepared for a testing mix of questions, a great prize for the winning team and an evening of fun for a great cause."

This will be the first of many future events which will raise funds to support the school and its students.

People who would like to take part and

register a team should visit the Marches School website and complete the registration form at www.marchesschool.co.uk.

Anyone would like to donate a raffle prize, can hand it in at the main reception of The Marches School.

* 'AN Evening with Schubert & Friends' is a celebration of the music and unforgettable melodies of Franz Schubert.

The concert will take place at Festival Drayton in Market Drayton.

The event takes place on Saturday at 7.30pm.

During his lifetime Schubertiade were informal gatherings which usually included the composer's participation and his latest compositions.

This programme celebrates the Viennese master's work through his Lieder (songs), Impromptus for piano, the Arpeggione Sonata and finishing with a performances of his much loved The Shepherd on the Rock cycle.

Director of Shropshire Music Trust, Kate Hogwood said: "This concert will be an unforgettable immersion in the music of Schubert, recreating a historical 'domestic' performance inter-woven with stories connected and including some of the master's greatest hits.

"Artistes soprano Claire Frewer, pianist Benjamin Frith, and cellist Richard Jenkinson are well-known to Shropshire audiences who know they will be in for a truly entertaining evening of music of the highest calibre".

April 22



Match of the Day Live
4.50pm
Chelsea v Tottenham Hotspur (Kick-off 5.15pm). Coverage of the opening semi-final from Wembley Stadium, as the London rivals battle it out. The Blues have a highly impressive recent record in this competition, having lifted the trophy five times in the last 10 years.



Live Snooker: The World Championship
7pm
Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the final session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where one second-round match is due to finish and another set to begin. Mark Selby won the title for the second time in his career here last year.



Take Me Out
6.45pm
In the latest edition of the dating game, another group of men enters the 'love lift' in the hope of impressing 30 single women and winning a date - but must first get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Paddy McGuinness presents.



Escape to the Chateau
7pm
Fresh from the success of hosting a three-day wedding at the chateau, Dick and Angel make business plans for the grounds, intending to charge people to fish in the moat and forage in the woods. Angel starts work on a second guest suite, but also wants to install an elevator.



The Funny Side of Growing Up
10.30pm
Johnny Vegas teams up with a variety of well-known British stars to take an irreverent look back at the process of growing into adulthood. Suzanne Shaw and Megan McKenna offer up tales of embarrassing accidents up against a tree and behind a sofa respectively.



BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
10.00	Saturday Kitchen Live. Comedy star Jason Manford joins John Torode in the kitchen this morning, where he samples dishes prepared by chefs Rich Turner and Lisa Allen.
11.30	Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. The veteran cook prepares mushroom Scotch eggs. She also tries her hand at fly-fishing on the River Test, cooking up her catch on the riverbank. (R)
12.00	Football Focus. Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's matches, including the FA Cup semi-finals at Wembley Stadium and six fixtures in the Premier League.
1.00	BBC News; Weather.
1.15	London Marathon: My Reason to Run. Gabby Logan looks ahead to tomorrow's race, profiling the main contenders for the elite races and providing an insight into some of the stories of those running for charity.
1.45	Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine presents as the eighth day's play continues at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, including the concluding session of one second-round match.
4.30	BBC News.
4.40	Midlands Today; Weather.
4.50	Match of the Day Live. Chelsea v Tottenham Hotspur (Kick-off 5.15pm). Coverage of the opening semi-final from Wembley Stadium, as the London rivals battle it out.
7.20	Doctor Who. The Doctor and Bill seek to solve the terrifying mystery at the heart of what seems to be a perfect human settlement, inhabited only by piles of grinning skulls.
8.10	Casualty. Part one of two. The first day of Cal's planned strike arrives, and while he and his allies set up their picket line, Lily struggles to decide where her loyalties lie. Inside the hospital, the industrial action causes trouble for Sam, who resolves to make up for staff shortages by manning the ED himself, despite his lack of experience. Meanwhile, Iain's pride over Gemma's recent achievements is dashed when he realises she was the one who leaked lurid pictures of Alicia online, and a hard-line racist is admitted after being injured in a pub brawl.
9.00	BBC News; Weather.
9.20	All Round to Mrs Brown's. Agnes and the family are joined in studio by choirmaster Gareth Malone and singer Peter Andre, while Steps perform their new single Scared of the Dark in Foley's pub; National Lottery Update.
10.20	Match of the Day. Dan Walker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including West Ham United v Everton and Bournemouth v Middlesbrough.
11.20	Murder in Successville.
11.50	FILM: Reign of Fire (2002). Fantasy adventure, starring Christian Bale and Matthew McConaughey.
1.25	Weather for the Week Ahead.
1.30	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.25	FILM: Tom Thumb (1958). Children's musical fantasy, starring Russ Tamblyn.
7.55	FILM: That's Entertainment! (1974). Compilation of highlights from MGM musicals, starring Frank Sinatra.
10.00	Live Snooker: The World Championship. Day eight gets under way in Sheffield.
12.00	Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. The chef gives a masterclass in roasting. (R)
12.30	The Best Dishes Ever. A selection of recipes to sate cravings for a takeaway. (R)
1.00	Gardeners' World. Monty Don continues work in his courtyard. (R)
1.30	Live European Gymnastics Championships: Apparatus Finals. Coverage from Cluj.
4.30	Final Score. Round-up of football results.
5.15	Flog It! From Derbyshire. (R)
6.00	Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby. Giles Coren and Monica Galetti work at the Royal Mansour in Marrakesh, Morocco, which was built by royal decree to showcase the area to world leaders, billionaires and celebrities. (R)
7.00	Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the final session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where one second-round match is due to finish and another set to begin.
8.00	BBC Young Dancer 2017. Anita Rani, Ore Oduba and Darcey Bussell host coverage of the grand final of this year's Young Dancer of the Year contest. Last in the series.
10.00	Qi XL. An extended edition in which Stephen Fry is joined by Sandi Toksvig, Aisling Bea, Susan Calman and regular panellist Alan Davies to navigate the topic of mathematics.
10.45	Versailles. A high-profile poisoning leaves a coveted vacancy, while Philippe's exiled lover Chevalier is allowed home - so a new marriage must be arranged. George Blagden stars; (R) Inside Versailles. As part of a closer look at the drama series, Kate Williams and Greg Jenner discuss Louis XIV's mistress Madame de Montespan. (R)
11.45	Snooker: The World Championship. Highlights of the concluding session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where another second-round match was scheduled to conclude. Presented by Hazel Irvine.
12.35	Snooker: World Championship Extra. Hazel Irvine presents extended highlights of matches from the second round on the eighth day of the ranking tournament at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.
2.35	FILM: Blackthorn (2011). Butch Cassidy plans to return home to his family from exile in Bolivia, but is drawn into one last criminal adventure. Western, starring Sam Shepard.
4.10	This Is BBC2. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Bottom Knocker Street 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street 6.25 Sooty 6.35 Signed Stories: Share a Story 6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 7.00 Oddbods 7.05 Marvel Avengers Assemble 7.30 Thunderbirds Are Go 7.55 NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu
8.25	ITV News.
8.30	Weekend. With guests Dennis Quaid, Gok Wan, Brenda Blethyn and Marti Pellow.
9.25	FILM: Free Willy 3: The Rescue (1997). The amiable killer whale is reunited with his human friend, who protects him and his pod from a gang of poachers. Family adventure, with Jason James Richter and August Schellenberg.
11.10	James Martin's French Adventure. The chef travels through Charente in southwestern France. (R)
12.10	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.25	Tippling Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz show, in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot. (R)
1.30	ITV Racing: Live from Ayr. Ed Chamberlin presents coverage of this afternoon's meeting from Ayr Racecourse, featuring races at 2.10, 2.45, 3.20 and 3.55. Plus, the 1.55, 2.30, 3.05 and 3.40 from Newbury.
4.30	Britain's Got More Talent. New series. Stephen Mulhern returns with the talent contest's companion show.
5.30	Catchphrase. Guessing game, hosted by Stephen Mulhern. (R)
6.15	ITV News Central; Weather.
6.30	ITV News and Weather.
6.45	Take Me Out. Men try to impress 30 single women and win a date - but must get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Paddy McGuinness presents.
8.00	Britain's Got Talent. More would-be entertainers hope to impress Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, David Walliams and Alesha Dixon in the second round of the audition stage.
9.20	Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon visits mystery celebrity homes and challenges this week's panel - Gino D'Acampo, Sue Cleaver and Johnny Vegas - to guess the identities of the famous owners. (R)
10.25	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.40	FILM: Bend It Like Beckham (2002). A schoolgirl tries to keep her passion for football a secret from her parents - but then gets the chance to turn professional. Comedy, starring Parminder Nagra and Keira Knightley.
12.45	Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	Who's Doing the Dishes? Professional dancer Vincent Simone hosts a dinner party for four guests who win a cash prize if they can guess his identity from cryptic culinary clues. Presented by Brian McFadden. (R)
3.50	ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4	
6.15	Mobil 1 The Grid.
6.45	Motor Sport: British GT.
7.10	The King of Queens. (R)
7.35	Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
8.00	Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
8.25	Frasier. (R)
8.55	Frasier. (R)
9.25	The Big Bang Theory. (R)
9.55	The Big Bang Theory. (R)
10.25	The Big Bang Theory. (R)
10.55	The Simpsons. (R)
11.25	The Simpsons. (R)
11.55	The Simpsons. (R)
12.25	Extreme Food. Kiran Jethwa traces unusual ingredients to their source. Last in the series.
12.55	Come Dine with Me. A company director hosts the first evening in the West Midlands. (R)
1.25	Come Dine with Me. In the West Midlands, a business guru plans an impressive night. (R)
1.55	Come Dine with Me. Teaching assistant Kim hosts the third dinner party of the week. (R)
2.30	Come Dine with Me. Part-time comedian Paul turns his West Midlands home into a pub. (R)
3.00	Come Dine with Me. Dinner-party challenge. (R)
3.30	A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. A couple looking for a holiday home in the Charente area of France. (R)
4.35	Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help prospective buyers in Cardiff. (R)
5.35	Grand Designs. A project to add an extra floor to a bungalow in Cornwall. (R)
6.30	Channel 4 News.
6.55	Making Western Flag. A short film displaying artist John Gerrard's simulated impression of the Spindletop oil field in Texas, which was the site of the first major oil find of the Texas Oil Boom.
7.00	Escape to the Chateau. Fresh from the success of a wedding at the chateau, Dick and Angel make business plans for the grounds, intending to charge people to fish in the moat and forage in the woods. (R)
8.00	Man Made Planet: Earth from Space. Tim Peake and some of his fellow astronauts make use of full-profile images of Earth to detail the remarkable impact human civilisation has had on the planet's landscape.
9.00	FILM: Dracula Untold (2014). Premiere. A Romanian knight makes a dangerous supernatural bargain to gain the power to defend his homeland from invaders. Fantasy adventure, starring Luke Evans and Dominic Cooper.
10.45	FILM: The Eagle (2011). A Roman centurion and his British slave journey into the wilds of Scotland to recover the standard of a lost legion. Action adventure, starring Channing Tatum and Jamie Bell.
12.55	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R)
1.45	Hollyoaks. (R)
3.50	Location, Location, Location. (R)
4.45	Shipping Wars UK. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Pip Ahoy! 6.10 Milkshake! Monkey 6.15 Milkshake! Bop Box 6.20 The Mr Men Show 6.30 Peppa Pig 6.35 Peppa Pig 6.40 Wissper 6.50 Paw Patrol 7.00 Bob the Builder 7.15 Fireman Sam 7.25 Olly the Little White Van 7.30 Olly the Little White Van 7.35 Paw Patrol 7.50 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.15 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.30 Wissper 8.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.00 Shimmer and Shine 9.20 Little Princess 9.35 Peppa Pig 9.45 Peppa Pig 10.00 Peppa Pig 10.05 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10.20	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R)
10.55	Access.
11.00	Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R)
11.20	Police Interceptors. (R)
12.20	On Benefits: UK's Most Hated Woman? (R)
1.15	On Benefits: Desperately Seeking Stardom. (R)
2.15	The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)
3.15	The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)
4.15	Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords: Revisited 2. (R)
5.10	Can't Pay Special: Big Family Bust Up. (R)
6.10	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)
7.10	NCIS: Los Angeles. The team is forced to establish whether the gunning down of a man outside the Vietnamese Consulate is an isolated incident or a terrorist attack.
8.00	NCIS. The agents quickly close a seemingly cut-and-dried case, but as they all leave the office at the end of the day, they each begin to spot flaws in their investigation.
8.55	5 News Weekend.
9.00	Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Burton Albion v Leeds United and Sheffield Wednesday v Derby County.
10.00	Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in League One and Two, including Milton Keynes Dons v Sheffield United and Exeter City v Morecambe.
10.30	The Funny Side of Growing Up. Johnny Vegas and a variety of well-known British stars take an irreverent look back at the process of growing into adulthood.
11.30	Comedy Bigmouths with Rory Bremner. Ian Stone takes aim at current affairs of the past seven days, with help from Zoe Lyons, Geoff Norcott, Ian Moore and Jo Caulfield. Plus, Rory Bremner makes a guest appearance.
12.00	SuperCasino.
3.10	FILM: Creep (2004). Horror, starring Franka Potente.
4.35	Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R)
5.00	Access.
5.10	Wildlife SOS. (R)
5.40	Angels of Jarm. (R)
5.50	Roary the Racing Car. (R)

April 23



Countryfile
7pm
 The team explores County Durham, where Matt Baker demonstrates how to make a traditional regional dish and Ellie Harrison takes a trip up the River Tees. Sean Fletcher meets a boy scout pack involved in wildlife projects, Tom Heap reports on fly tipping, and Adam Henson meets beef farmers.



Top Gear
8pm
 Matt LeBlanc drives an eight-wheeled rescue vehicle from Russia, Rory Reid turns the world's ugliest car into a luxury yacht, and Chris Harris reviews the new Porsche Cayman. Plus, Jamiroquai frontman Jay Kay is the studio guest. Last in the series.



Bigheads
7pm
 Jason Manford hosts the comedy game show in which members of the public compete in a series of bizarre physical challenges. In the first episode, contestants disguised as Donald Trump, Adele, Albert Einstein and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, must dodge past giant bouncers to get into a nightclub.



Gogglebox
10pm
 In another edition of the ever-popular series, the armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week. The programme captures their instant reactions and lively discussions from the comfort of their own homes.



U-571
6.55pm
 American forces board a stricken Nazi submarine at the height of the Second World War in the hope of seizing an Enigma coding machine, but German reinforcements arrive, forcing them to flee in the unfamiliar craft. Action adventure, starring Matthew McConaughey.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
7.25	Match of the Day. Dan Walker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including West Ham United v Everton. (R)
8.30	London Marathon. Gabby Logan presents live coverage of the 37th staging of the annual event on the streets of London, as tens of thousands of runners take on the 26.2-mile course.
3.00	BBC News: Weather.
3.15	Sunday Politics West Midlands. The week's events at Westminster, presented by Andrew Neil. Including a regional round-up.
4.30	Points of View. Jeremy Vine presents a selection of viewers' comments.
4.45	Escape to the Country. A spiritual healer wants to find a rural property in Dorset with his budget of £350,000, and presenter Jules Hudson meets some slippery local residents. (R)
5.15	Songs of Praise. David Grant visits an RSPCA animal centre in Leybourne, Kent, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the charity being founded by a Church of England vicar.
5.50	Pointless Celebrities. Alastair Stewart, Charlene White, Emily Maitlis, Nick Robinson, Piers Morgan, Susanna Reid, Rageh Omaar and Cathy Newman compete. (R)
6.35	BBC News.
6.50	Midlands Today; Weather.
7.00	Countryfile. The team explores County Durham, where Matt Baker demonstrates how to make a traditional regional dish and Ellie Harrison takes a trip up the River Tees. Including weather for the week ahead.
8.00	Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Senate House in Bloomsbury, where items under valuation include a horse's hoof, a collection of stained glass panels, and a diamond bracelet.
9.00	Line of Duty. DCI Roz Huntley struggles to allay her husband's suspicions and AC12 find a new angle to pursue their case against her.
10.00	BBC News.
10.20	Midlands Today; Weather.
10.30	Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Burnley v Manchester United at Turf Moor and Liverpool v Crystal Palace at Anfield.
11.20	Match of the Day: The FA Cup. Arsenal v Manchester City. Action from the concluding semi-final at Wembley Stadium, as the line-up for the showpiece match was confirmed.
11.50	The Women's Football Show. Eilidh Barbour presents a look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.
12.35	I'm Different: Let Me Drive. Two drivers with Asperger's syndrome try to pass their tests, one wanting to be less reliant on her mother while the other hopes to improve her job prospects. Last in the series.
1.05	Weather for the Week Ahead.
1.10	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.00	Around the World in 80 Gardens. Northern Europe's most impressive gardens. (R)
7.00	Gardeners' World. Monty Don continues work in his courtyard. (R)
7.30	The Beechgrove Garden. Jim McCol and Carole Baxter try different methods of growing potatoes.
8.00	Countryfile. Matt Baker takes part in a pace egg rolling challenge in Lancashire. (R)
9.00	The Andrew Marr Show.
10.00	Live Snooker: The World Championship. Day nine gets under way in Sheffield.
12.15	MOTD2 Extra. Football discussion.
1.00	Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine presents as the ninth day's play continues at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, featuring the second session of two second-round matches.
6.00	The London Marathon Highlights. Ore Oduba presents action from the 37th staging of the annual event, which saw tens of thousands of runners take on the famous 26.2-mile course.
7.00	Live Snooker: The World Championship. Jason Mohammad introduces coverage of the final session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where two more second-round matches continue.
8.00	Top Gear. Matt LeBlanc drives an eight-wheeled rescue vehicle from Russia and Rory Reid turns the world's ugliest car into a luxury yacht. Last in the series.
9.00	The Crucible: 40 Golden Snooker Years. Steve Davis goes back to the Crucible Theatre to celebrate 40 years of the world snooker championship, talking to some of the players forever ingrained in the sport's history.
10.00	The Rack Pack. Comedy drama based on the glory days of professional snooker in the 1980s and the rivalry between Alex "Hurricane" Higgins and Steve Davis. Luke Treadaway and Will Merrick star. (R)
11.30	Snooker: The World Championship. Highlights of the concluding session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where two second-round matches continued. Presented by Jason Mohammad.
12.20	Snooker: World Championship Extra. Jason Mohammad presents extended highlights of matches from the second round on the ninth day of the ranking tournament at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.
2.20	Sign Zone: Countryfile. Matt Baker takes part in a pace egg rolling challenge in Lancashire, while Anita Rani follows a walk through the region's hills set up to commemorate the witch trials. (R)
3.15	Sign Zone: Holby City. Jac and Matteo's relationship seems to be heading in the right direction, but when she becomes suspicious of his motives, her investigations unearth skeletons in his closet. (R)
4.15	This Is BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Bottom Knocker Street 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street 6.25 Sooty 6.35 Signed Stories: Share a Story 6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 7.00 Oddbods 7.05 Marvel Avengers Assemble 7.30 Thunderbirds Are Go 7.55 NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu
8.25	ITV News.
8.30	Weekend. With guest Gaynor Faye.
9.25	Countrywise: Guide to Britain. Ben Fogle helps with the renovation work at Castle Howard in North Yorkshire. Last in the series. (R)
10.00	Peston on Sunday. Political magazine.
11.00	FILM: Carry On Again Doctor (1969). Comedy, starring Sid James.
12.45	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.55	Who's Doing the Dishes? Lady Colin Campbell shares her opulent London pad with a new team of diners. (R)
1.55	Britain's Got Talent. The second round of auditions. (R)
3.15	FILM: You Only Live Twice (1967). James Bond spy thriller, starring Sean Connery.
5.30	ITV News Central; Weather.
5.45	ITV News and Weather.
6.00	The Chase: Celebrity Special. Emmerdale's Natalie Anderson (Alicia), actress Patsy Kensit, broadcaster Esther Rantzen and singer-presenter Brian McFadden take on a trivia expert for charity. Bradley Walsh hosts. (R)
7.00	Bigheads. New series. Jason Manford hosts the comedy game show in which contestants compete in a series of bizarre physical challenges while wearing giant model heads of celebrities.
8.00	The Durrells. New series. Louisa tries to raise some money by selling homemade food, which attracts the attention of another Englishman. However, a former lover threatens the family's plans.
9.00	Grantchester. New series. Sidney receives anonymous phone calls and realises they may be linked to the murders of important community figures. Return of the crime drama, starring James Norton.
10.00	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.20	Lethal Weapon. When a million dollar casino heist takes a deadly turn, Riggs befriends the only credible witness – an eight-year-old boy – and takes him into his care. Clayne Crawford stars. (R)
11.20	The Nightly Show Best Bits. Highlights of the final week, with Dermot O'Leary presenting topical monologues, studio games, celebrity guests, stand-up and video clips. Last in the series.
11.50	Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R)
12.40	Jackpot247. Interactive gaming.
3.00	Motorsport UK.
3.50	British Superbike Championship Highlights.
4.40	ITV Nightscreen.
5.05	The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

Channel 4	
6.20	The King of Queens. Doug flirts with the bowling alley's new shoe-girl. (R)
6.45	The King of Queens. Doug grows jealous of Carrie's gay colleague. (R)
7.10	The King of Queens. Carrie grows jealous of Doug's former girlfriend. (R)
7.35	Everybody Loves Raymond. Ray adopts a stray dog. (R)
8.00	Everybody Loves Raymond. The neighbours are upset by Ray's parents. (R)
8.30	Frasier. The Crane brothers buy into a restaurant. (R)
9.00	Frasier. Everyone is feeling grumpy on Martin's birthday. (R)
9.30	Sunday Brunch. With Richard Herring, Lea Michele, Tinie Tempah and Susanna Reid.
12.30	The Simpsons. A bully torments Lisa. (R)
1.00	The Simpsons. The family heads for Africa. (R)
1.30	FILM: Robots (2005). Animated adventure, with the voice of Ewan McGregor.
3.20	FILM: Mission: Impossible (1996). Action thriller, starring Tom Cruise.
5.25	George Clarke's Old House, New Home. The host unlocks the potential of old houses. (R)
6.30	Channel 4 News.
6.50	FILM: Thor (2011). The Norse god of thunder is banished to present-day Earth, which he must defend from his evil brother. Fantasy adventure, starring Chris Hemsworth and Natalie Portman. Edited for language.
9.00	The Island with Bear Grylls. New series. Two teams from different generations are marooned on separate islands in the survival challenge, to see which age group is better able to cope with hardship.
10.00	Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)
11.00	Man Made Planet: Earth from Space. Tim Peake and some of his fellow astronauts make use of full-profile images of Earth to detail the remarkable impact human civilisation has had on the planet's landscape. (R)
12.00	FILM: The Sessions (2012). Premiere. Comedy drama, starring John Hawkes.
1.45	The Last Leg. Alan Carr and Tinie Tempah join the regulars. (R)
2.40	Location, Location, Location. Two couples search for new homes in Scotland. (R)
3.35	Gillette World Sport. An interview with surfboard shaping expert Simon Anderson.
4.00	KOTV Boxing Weekly. Tommy Coyle v Rakeem Noble.
4.25	Mobil 1 The Grid. Including action from the opening round of the Blancpain GT Series. (R)
4.55	Four in a Bed. The contest begins at the Old Stables, Somerset. (R)
5.20	Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R)
5.30	Shipping Wars UK. Raymond and Grant transport four giant illuminated letters. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Mr Men 6.10 Peppa Pig 6.15 Peppa Pig 6.20 Paw Patrol 6.35 Bob the Builder 6.45 Fireman Sam 6.55 Oily the Little White Van 7.00 Oily the Little White Van 7.05 Paw Patrol 7.20 Blaze and the Monster Machines 7.45 Noddy: Toyland Detective 7.55 Wissper 8.10 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 8.25 Shimmer and Shine 8.50 Little Princess 9.10 Peppa Pig 9.20 Peppa Pig 9.30 Peppa Pig 9.35 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.45	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Crime-fighting capers. (R)
10.20	Access. Showbiz news and gossip.
10.25	Football on 5: The Championship. Highlights of Burton Albion v Leeds United. (R)
11.20	Football on 5: Goal Rush. Highlights of Milton Keynes Dons v Sheffield United. (R)
11.55	The Gadget Show. Georgie Barrat tries to set a virtual reality world record. (R)
12.55	FILM: The Deep End of the Ocean (1999). Drama, starring Michelle Pfeiffer.
3.00	Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild. Cameras follow wildlife in the Yorkshire Dales and on the North York Moors. (R)
4.00	Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild. Unseasonably cold summer weather causes difficulties for several animals. (R)
5.00	Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild. Balm conditions give the roe deer a lifeline as autumn dawns. (R)
6.00	Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild. As winter takes its toll, cameras follow grey seal pups at Ravenscar Beach, and the progress of many short-eared owls that land on the moors. (R)
6.50	5 News Weekend.
6.55	FILM: U-571 (2000). American forces board a Nazi submarine in the hope of seizing an Enigma coding machine. Second World War adventure, starring Matthew McConaughey, Harvey Keitel and Bill Paxton. Edited for language. Includes 5 News Update at 7.55pm.
9.00	FILM: 3 Days to Kill (2014). Premiere. A dying CIA agent takes on one last assignment while trying to rebuild his relationship with his estranged daughter. Action thriller, with Kevin Costner and Amber Heard. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm.
11.05	FILM: Chaos (2005). A veteran cop and his inexperienced new partner take on the mysterious criminal masterminding a series of hi-tech heists. Crime thriller, starring Jason Statham and Wesley Snipes.
1.05	SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming.
3.10	Body of Proof. An apparent rabies outbreak coincides with several murders. (R)
4.00	Criminals: Caught on Camera. Police officers monitor the activity of Soho's 100,000 nightly visitors. (R)
4.50	House Doctor. A flat in Kensal Green, west London. (R)
5.15	Wildlife SOS. (R)
5.40	Angels of Jarm. (R)
5.50	Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Grunge act in first headline show

Four-piece West Midlands based stoner/grunge outfit PORK will headline their first Slade Rooms show, in Wolverhampton, next Friday.



The show follows a year of relentless gigging and the successful release of their debut album Cogito Ergo Sum.

The gig will be their sixth at the Slade Rooms – and their first as top of the bill.

The band have been described as brazen Black Country acid-rockers and fans can look forward to their stoner-come-grunge infused home brew, served up in a raw and aggressive stage performance that has been compared to likes of the Melvins and Nirvana.

They will be supported by Fragile Things, Tyrannosaurs Nebulous and Tear It Down.

● For more details or to buy tickets go to www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Hit YouTube duo are on the road

Entertainers Rose and Rosie made their name with a series of successful YouTube videos.

They have around a million YouTube subscribers and the online vloggers, who recently married, will headline Birmingham's O2 Institute on Thursday in their Exposed Tour.

They met when Rose Dix went uninvited to Rosie Spaughton's Halloween party when they were 17 and 19 respectively, though when they met they were both in relationships at the time.

In 2014, Rose proposed to Rosie and the wedding took place a year later at Clearwell Castle in Gloucestershire. In August 2016, they both made the AfterEllen Hot 100 list with Rosie at number 23 and Rose at 18. They also hit 100 million views on their main channel that month.

● Tickets from www.myticket.co.uk

Bands uniting in aid of pub bombings

Bands from Birmingham will join forces at the city's Town Hall on Sunday for a charity gig.

Brum Bands Unite is a St George's Day celebration in support for the Justice for the 21 Campaign.

The night will feature a number of standalone performances from: Quill, Morganisation (Dave Scott Morgan – ELO) who also wrote the 21 Today song in support of the campaign, Steve Gibbons (Balls), Vix and the Mischiefs (Fuzzbox) along with Chris Tye, Bitty McLean and Inspirations Ladies Choir.

Justice for the 21 is a campaign to achieve justice for the 21 people who lost their lives in the Birmingham pub bombings of November 21, 1974.



Moving in their own way – The Kooks play live



We might be a bit older but we're still on the same page

It was the classic case of sneaking through the back door while nobody else was looking.

The Kooks released their debut album, the brilliant *Inside In/Inside Out*, at the same time as the Arctic Monkeys were unleashing their debut, *Whatever People Say I Am That's What I'm Not*.

The latter was one of the biggest releases of the decade and the press went into overdrive as it won BRIT Awards, the Mercury Music Prize and was named album of the year by NME, Time, Hot Press and more.

And yet while all eyes were on Arctic Monkeys, The Kooks were busy creating their own sensation. While *Inside In/Inside Out* only reached number two in the charts, it sold as many copies in the UK as its starry competitor – a massive 1.5 million – and earned five platinum discs.

And as singer Luke Pritchard noted, the band were shielded from the press's scrutiny and able to develop at their own pace.

A decade on and the band are celebrating their ongoing success with an unusually-intimate UK tour. Their *Best Of* shows will visit 17 venues, including Birmingham's O2 Academy tomorrow. The Brighton based four-piece continue to go from strength to

strength and with three more studio albums under their belt, a number of massive world tours, awards and critical acclaim, it's time to celebrate their momentous career so far.

Fans will be given the chance to see performances of classic hits, B-sides as well as brand new music that the band have been dedicating time to in the studio this year.

Luke is looking forward to being back on the road. "Yeah, we can't wait. We had quite a bit of time off over Christmas, which was nice. We're all gagging to be back on the road. It's pretty impressive that the tour is lined up and that it's been ten years. Most bands don't get to do this."

DOWNTIME

The band's last studio album was *Listen*, which featured new drummer Alexis Nunez, who replaced Paul Garred. It was followed by a major tour and the band enjoyed a little downtime at the end of last year.

"Usually on December 27, we're flying to Australia. But we all have families so it's been nice to spend a bit of time together. We've been able to do what most people take it for granted.

"Straight after Christmas we were writing for the record. A bit of time at home is enough, then everyone

starts doing your head in. You're under the missus's feet and it's all: 'When you going on tour, babe?' OK, I'm away."

Having had a good break, they're refreshed and eager to get back on the road.

"We all love touring, man, a lot. So we'll be looking forward to the summer in a tour van."

"It's good news that the current tour is sold out."

"This one is different because it's the greatest hits tour. We've been playing these songs for a long time. We're not always the biggest fans of the bigger tunes. What we want to do is play the new stuff. But the audience won't always get on board with that. This takes that element out of the equation. In terms of how we go about doing the show, we'll have a theatrical approach to it. It'll be pretty visual."

The enormous success of *Inside In/Inside Out* changed everyone's lives. From almost nowhere, the band were propelled to major venues as their star began to rise.

"We were playing to 50 people one minute then six months later it was Leeds and Reading. I was like: 'Man, this is cool. I need more of this'. I'd be lying to say it's been all easy since then because it hasn't. But it helps having that record behind us. We're all a little older now but we're still on the same page."

Good golly, it's the words of Miss Molly

A wistful mother in the 1950s makes some simple home recordings in her family sitting room.

Little could she have known that decades later, her son would become one of the most poetic and influential songwriters ever, or that more than 60 years later, the dust would be blown off her own songs.

On the surface, the 2013 release of Molly Drake's work could easily have been perceived as just a curious footnote and jigsaw piece in explaining the enormous talent of Nick Drake. In the eyes of The Unthanks however, and increasingly amongst others, Molly's work is extraordinary enough to rank alongside and independently of her brilliant son.

An extensive UK and Irish spring 2017 tour of Molly Drake's work, reimagined by The Unthanks, will be followed on May

26 by the release of *Diversions Vol 4 – How Wild The Wind Blows The Unthanks Perform The Songs & Poems Of Molly Drake*.

The work will be performed when The Unthanks headline Birmingham's Glee Club on Wednesday. The show has sold out.

Songwriter and musician Adrian McNally said the quintet were looking forward to playing the songs live.

"It's been coming about for about three years. We were sent the original record by the Drake estate because we were quite close friends with them by then, having interrupted a song by Nick Drake very early on.

"We didn't get through first listen without thinking we had to do something with the songs."

"I loved all the artists around the time that Nick Drake was making music but I don't think anyone from that time came anywhere near as close to Nick



as capturing something. He almost bypassed the folk revival and created something that echoed much further back.

"I think, also, there's that whole impression of Nick having been brought up in this middle class family as a troubled teenager who was

misunderstood. It's great to show through Molly's work that that wasn't the case. He had a mother who probably understood him really well and was responsible for his level of emotional intelligence and was also an influence on him as a writer. It's nice to show that Nick was understood by his family."



Play on black man's struggle is a class act

E.R. Braithwaite's powerful story, *To Sir, With Love*, will be brought to life at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Wednesday until May 6.



Immortalised in the classic film of the same name, starring Sidney Poitier, and adapted for the stage by the writer of *East Is East*, Ayub Khan-Din, the new production is being directed by Gwenda Hughes and Tom Saunders.

It's an inspirational story of courage and hope. Rick Braithwaite, a Cambridge graduate and ex-RAF fighter pilot, who has fought for his country but is still fighting for acceptance. Despite being a skilled engineer, no employer wants him. As the reality of life as a black man in post-war Britain hits him, he's forced to take a teaching post in a tough but progressive inner city school.

Ayub Khan-Din says: "I think for me it was about reading the book and seeing what resonated. For me that was the discussion about education. Especially today, as everyone is so concerned about the way we're educating our children, the style we're using and how we're all worrying about the schools we can get our children into."

"The thing about *To Sir, With Love* is that it talks about a radical form of education. In this school they try to get children involved in the decision making of the school and to have a say in the way they are educated."

"The school is given a responsibility to look beyond formal education and has a vision to send children out into wider society, fully able to participate in the decision making of that society. That's what fascinated me and made me excited about the book and the ideas that I wanted to put into the play."

Super dance troupers are still streets ahead

There have been six sell-out UK tours and 300,000 tickets sold. There have been countless TV appearances and numerous other accomplishments.

Diversity have lived the dream since winning the third series of Britain's Got Talent in 2009 – beating runner-up Susan Boyle in the live final. And they're back on the road with a new show, *Genesis*, that headlines Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena on Saturday afternoon and evening.

Genesis is the concluding part of their super hero fantasy epic and follows *Limitless: The Reboot*.

Creator and choreographer Ashley Banjo says: "It is approaching eight years since Diversity won Britain's Got Talent in front of an audience of more than 20 million and thanks to the support of the British public and our legion of fans we have gone from strength to strength."

Driven by their motto Dream, Believe, Diversity continue to inspire all generations and are a remarkable example of what can be accomplished with dedication, belief and hard work.

The Banjo brothers are at the heart of Diversity with the present line-up including Ashley and Jordan Banjo, Mitchell Craske, Sam Craske, Perri Kiely, Warren Russell and Terry Smith.

Their mother, Danielle Banjo, was instrumental in their formation, having once been a ballet dancer. She now helps to manage Diversity, as well as running Danceworks Studios.

Jordan says: "Genesis is the finale to all the shows that we've done so far on all of our tours. As far as what to expect, everyone who's seen us knows we get bigger and better each time. Throughout the years, we've grown older and smarter. This show, I know it's a cliché, but it is going to be bigger and better. I hope everyone who's been on the journey with us will realise that."

Despite the band's success, Jordan is anything but blasé about Diversity. "We'd love to take the credit and say there's intricate planning but I feel we've been really lucky and people have got behind us. Ash is my older brother, then there are other brothers, best friends and the like: we are literally a group of friends and brothers. Every day is a blessing."

"We get up and go and film and perform. I look around and I know how lucky we are. I can't believe we are where we are. Because of that, people understand us. Everybody loves our feel-good vibe. There's enough sadness in the world so Diversity tries to spread a positive message. That's what I feel like we have."

Of course, it all started with their win on Britain's Got Talent. They won a Street Dance Weekend Competition in 2007 and stunned the BGT judges when they lined up before Amanda Holden, Piers Morgan and Simon Cowell. And though Susan Boyle was the clear favourite to win the show, Diversity triumphed.

Jordan says the show changed their lives. "I think we undervalued how important that moment was. Even to this day, it's still such a shock. It doesn't feel real. When Susan Boyle was in the final, nobody else was gonna win apart from her. So as soon as we knew we were at least second, we were already high-fivin'. But then when they said our name, half of us fell over and the other half fell on the floor."

Diversity are at the Barclaycard Arena on Saturday



"We were just taking each day as it came. We were dancing in shopping centres at the same time as BGT. I was doing GCSEs and hoping to be an accountant. So now, eight years on, to be dancing two shows at the Barclaycard Arena is incredible."

The boys have a big public profile but have managed to avoid controversy. They take seriously their status as role models and hope to inspire a new generation.

"That's always been a goal. For us, it's never been about the fame. You won't see us falling out of clubs in the papers. It's about creating a legacy and an idea. I feel like in terms of street dance in the UK, we've opened the floodgates and made it mainstream."

"When I was younger I never took it as seriously because it was my mum's dance school and my older brother was the teacher. That's all changed."

Indeed it has. A typical year in the life of Diversity is a rollercoaster ride of TV shows, meetings about Christmas specials and random calls from promoters.

"It never flatlines. It's never quiet."

Towards the end of last year, Jordan imagined he might have a few quiet weeks. And then the phone rang. And he was asked to feature on *I'm A Celebrity*, *Get Me Out Of Here*.

"I was teaching with Nathan when the phone went. It was ITV. I said 'Do they want me to perform on the show?' And they said: 'No, they want you to go in'. One minute I was ordering a chicken kebab doing a dance lesson and going to see the girlfriend, the next I'm being lined up for a TV show in Australia. 'Before I went in, I thought it might be a bit fake. But you soon find out it isn't.'"

Andy Richardson

Don't miss a night of West End tunes

Some of the biggest show tunes from the West End and Broadway will be performed at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Thursday in *Beyond the Barricade*.

Starring Andy Reiss, David Fawcett, Katie Leeming and Rebecca Vere, together with their own ensemble of talented musicians, *Beyond the Barricade* features songs from *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Jersey Boys*, *The Lion King*, *Blood Brothers*, *Miss Saigon* and many others, climaxing with a spectacular finale from *Les Misérables*.
● Tickets from www.atgtickets.com

Haven't a clue? This is the show for you

The multi award-winning antidote to panel games – *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue* – will be recording part of its 67th series for the BBC at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre.

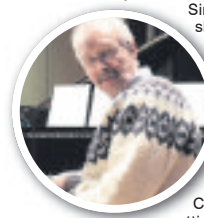
It's on Sunday and tickets are just £9.

Since its inception, the show has seen its success blossom from the impish son of *I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again* to the big daddy of all panel games.

The format of the game is very simple: four players are given silly things to do by the Chairman, with Colin Sell setting some of them to music.

The evening will be recorded for broadcast on BBC Radio 4 and will finish no later than 10.30pm.

● For details go to www.atgtickets.com



BRAIN TRAINING

Test your mental agility. Target times, in minutes, are in the little clocks

9-er



Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all 9 letters.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

THE CLUES

5753 gives a flower,
49681 gives a flower,
1298 gives a flower.

Your time:

X is to Y



- 1. Trafalgar is to Nelson as Bosworth is to ? ALFRED, EDWARD I, HENRY II, RICHARD III, WILLIAM IV
- 2. Humphrys is to Magnusson as Paxman is to ? CARROTT, GASCOIGNE, LAMPARD, O'CONNOR, WHITELEY
- 3. Ashmolean is to Oxford as Red Lodge is to ? BIRMINGHAM, BRISTOL, GLASGOW, MANCHESTER, YORK

Your time:

Mindbender



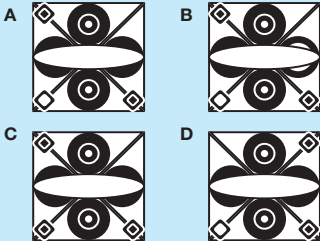
In a running race, Tina finished in 3/4 of the time Ness took, plus twenty minutes. Trish finished in 7/9 plus twelve minutes of Ness's time. If Tina and Trish finished at the same time, how long did Ness take?

Your time:

Mirror Image



Which of the four shapes below is an exact mirror image of the shape on the right?

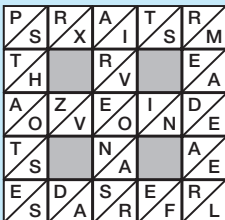


Your time:

Split Decision



Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.



Your time:

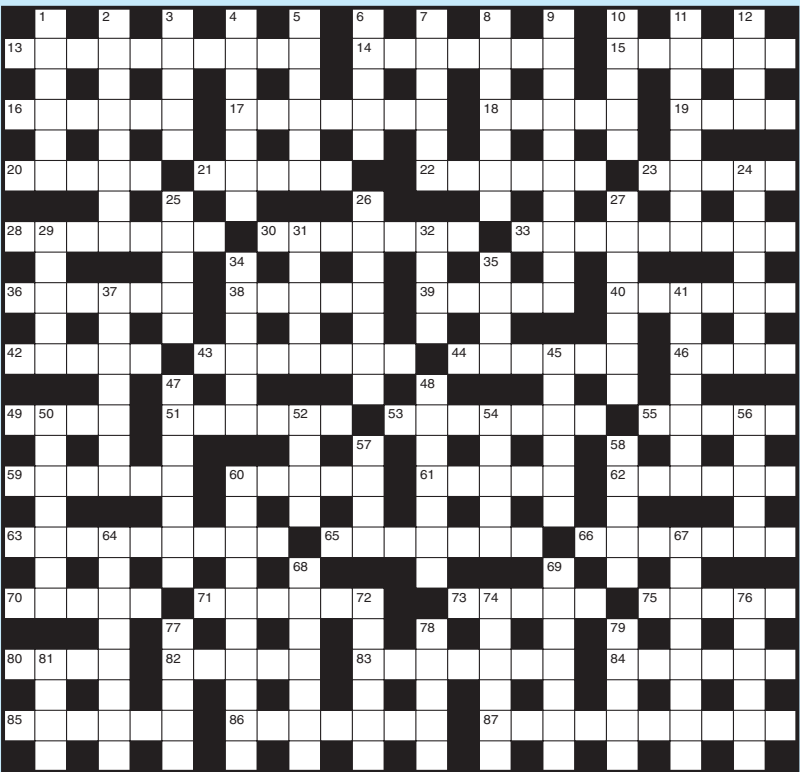
IMPOSSIPUZZLES

- 1. "You say the train arrived some time between three and four o'clock yesterday afternoon," said Sandy. "Can't you give the exact time?" Oscar shook his head. "Maybe I could figure it out," he replied. "I happened to be looking at the clock at that moment, and I do remember noticing the minute hand was just seven minute marks ahead of the hour hand." **What was the time?**
- 2. "I never knew you were such a music fan!" exclaimed Claire, looking down at the CDs on Holly's desk. "You must have three or four hundred there." Holly picked up a Bee Gees album with a smile. "Not quite that number, but putting them into sets is a problem," she told Clare. "For all in eights I'm one CD short, and the same for fives. But for sevens I'm one too many." **How many CDs?**
- 3. Florencia had her cheque book out. "How much was it?" she asked. "I told you this morning and yesterday too," replied Alberto. "So this time you can work it out yourself. The total in pence is just seven times what you get if you add the number of pence to the number of pounds." **How much?**

SUDOKU

6	2			8		7	
1					9	3	4
			3		1	6	
		2		1		6	9
			2		3		
5		1		6		7	
	5		1	7			
2	1	4					7
	8		9			5	1

CROSSWORD



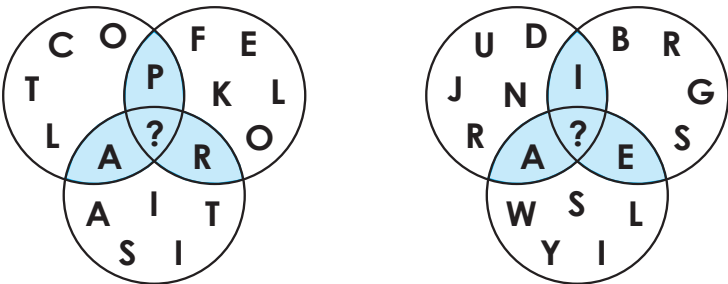
- ACROSS**

 - 13 Newspaper (10)
 - 14 Say (7)
 - 15 Deduce (6)
 - 16 Deal with (6)
 - 17 Appears (5,2)
 - 18 Liking (5)
 - 19 Silly (4)
 - 20 Board (3,2)
 - 21 Fast (5)
 - 22 Pale (6)
 - 23 Stop (5)
 - 28 Shown to (7)
 - 30 Mood (7)
 - 33 Understanding (9)
 - 36 Coating (6)
 - 38 Paper quantities (5)
 - 39 Illustration (5)
 - 40 Disconcert (6)
 - 42 Started (5)
 - 43 Wood (7)
 - 44 Tool (6)
 - 46 Fruit (4)
 - 49 That time (4)
- DOWN**

 - 1 Wrinkle (6)
 - 2 Good-looking (8)
 - 3 White (5)
 - 4 Horrible (7)
 - 5 Tried (6)
 - 6 Wrong (5)
 - 7 Grab (4,2)
 - 8 Initially (7)
 - 9 Frighten (10)
 - 10 Command (5)
 - 11 Give to (4,4)
 - 12 Covering (4)
 - 24 Garment (7)
 - 25 Middle (5)
 - 26 Theatre worker (7)
 - 27 Soon (7)
 - 29 Extra (5)
 - 31 Clear (5)
 - 32 Spigots (4)
 - 34 Right (6)
 - 35 Money (4)
 - 37 Shoe (7)
 - 41 Boring (7)
- 45 Except for (6)
 - 47 Dark areas (7)
 - 48 Vendors (7)
 - 50 Resist (4,3)
 - 52 Metal (4)
 - 54 Copy (5)
 - 56 Cut (5)
 - 57 Small dog (4)
 - 58 Strange (5)
 - 60 Ending (10)
 - 64 Ditto (8)
 - 67 Brightens (6,2)
 - 68 Birds (7)
 - 69 Afterwards (5,2)
 - 72 Hit (6)
 - 74 Article (6)
 - 76 Cold (6)
 - 77 Depended on (5)
 - 78 Gust (5)
 - 79 Puzzle (5)
 - 81 Pithy (4)

CIRCLEGRAM

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be rearranged to form words with a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



ALPHAMUDDLE

Rearrange the letters to make five words that read both across and down. Five letters have been placed to start you off.

L	F	A	L	A
E	A	T	S	L
S	A	S	T	S
H	T	E	S	T
T	B	A	T	H

			S	
L				
				S
		A		
E				

SOLUTIONS

Sudoku

6	2	3	4	9	8	1	7	5
1	7	8	6	5	2	9	4	3
4	9	5	3	7	1	8	6	2
8	6	7	2	1	5	6	3	9
9	4	1	8	6	9	7	2	3
5	4	1	8	6	9	7	2	3
3	5	9	1	2	7	4	8	6
2	1	4	5	8	6	3	9	7
7	8	6	9	3	4	2	5	1

Impossipuzzles
1. Time 3:24pm, 2. 239 CDs, 3. The amount was £6.93.
Circlegram
A: The letter represented by the question mark is N. Clapton, Knopfler, Sabran, all guitarists.
B: The letter represented by the question mark is D. Dujardin, Bridges, Day-Lewis, all 21st Century Best Actor Oscar winners.
Alphamuddle
Blast, Lathe, Atlas, Shaft, Tests.

DOWN: 1 Crease, 2 Handsome, 3 Ashen, 4 Beastly, 5 Strove, 6 Amiss, 7 Snap up, 8 Firstly, 9 Intimidate, 10 Order, 11 Hand over, 12 Root, 24 Single, 25 Heart, 26 Dresser, 27 Shortly, 29 Spare, 31 Plain, 32 Taps, 34 Proper, 35 Cash, 37 Trainer, 41 Tedious, 45 Saving, 47 Shadows, 48 Sellers, 50 Hold out, 52 Lead, 54 Trace, 56 Curve, 57 Fable, 58 Ward, 60 Concluding, 64 Likewise, 67 Clears up, 68 Parrot, 69 Later on, 72 Struck, 74 Leader, 76 Chilly, 77 Leant, 78 Blast, 79 Stump, 81 Neat.

Crossword
Across: 13 Broadsheet, 14 Mention, 15 Reason, 16 Handle, 17 Shows up, 18 Shine, 19 Dart, 20 Get on, 21 Fleet, 22 Palled, 23 Avast, 28 Unheard, 30 Spirits, 33 Gathering, 36 Batter, 38 Reams, 39 Chase, 40 Rattle, 42 Began, 43 Hardly, 39 Smiley, 44 Chisel, 46 Date, 49 Then, 51 Hardly, 53 Restive, 55 Pouch, 59 Flood, 60 Chase, 61 Learn, 62 Ensure, 63 Following, 65 Heaten, 66 Cracked, 70 Stake, 71 Bleats, 73 Gloat, 75 In, 85 Damsion, 86 Notices, 87 Enormously, 88 Knew, 82 Elder, 83 Release, 84 Turn, 86 Cracked, 70 Stake, 71 Bleats, 73 Gloat, 75

X is to Y

P	R	I	S	M
E	R	E		
D	A	V	O	I
A	N			
L				
E	S			

Mindbender
1. Richard, 2. Gascoigne, 3. Bristol.
X is to Y
Rose.
9-letter word: ROYALTIES, Lily, Aster.
Mirror Image
A is the mirror image.
Split Decision
Ness took four hours, forty eight minutes.

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2014 14 PEUGEOT 107 ACTIVE 3 DOOR, Purple, One Owner, 21,500 Miles, Zero Road Tax **£4,999**



2013 62 FORD B-MAX 1.4 ZETEC 5-door, Bronze, One Owner, 38,600 miles, FSH, Parking Sensors **£6,999**



2012 63 FORD FIESTA STUDIO 1.4 TDCi 5 DOOR, Silver Metallic, 59,000 Miles, £20 Road Tax, **£5,499**



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2009 09	BMW 325i SE CONVERTIBLE, Blue Metallic With Cream Leather, 50,200 Miles, 2 Owners,	£9,499
2010 10	BMW 318D 2.0 M-SPORT 4 Door Saloon, Blue Metallic, 17" Double Spoke Alloy Wheels, 63,000 miles, £30 Road Tax.....	£9,499
2008 58	BMW 520d TOURING M-SPORT, Manual, Metallic Black, FSH, 58,000 miles.....	SOLD
2013 63	BMW 520d SE AUTOMATIC, Silver Metallic with Black Leather, One Owner, 27,000 Miles, FSH, £30 Road Tax.....	SOLD
2014 14	CITROEN DS3 1.2 DESIGN 3 DOOR, Red with Black Roof & Wheels, 15,600 Miles 20 Road Tax.....	£8,499
2014 63	CITROEN C3 PICASSO VTR+ 5 DOOR, Silver Metallic, One Owner, 19,000 Miles, £20 Road Tax, FSH,	£7,499
2014 14	FIAT 500L TREKKING 1.6 DIESEL, Yellow, One Owner, 10,500 Miles, FSH.....	£9,499
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2013 62	FORD B-MAX 1.4 ZETEC 5-door. Bronze, One Owner, 38,600 miles, FSH, Parking Sensors	£6,999
2012 63	FORD FIESTA STUDIO 1.4 TDCi 5 DOOR, Silver Metallic, 59,000 Miles, £20 Road Tax,	£5,499
2014 14	FORD FOCUS 1.0 ecoBOOST ZETEC 5 DOOR, Grey Metallic, 6 Speed, 45,800 Miles, £30 Road Tax,	£8,499
2012 12	FORD MONDEO 1.6 Tdi EDGE 5-door Hatch Manual. Metallic Silver, 49,000 miles, FSH	£7,499
2007 57	HYUNDAI GETZ 1.1 CDX 5 DOOR, Grey Metallic, 54,000 Miles, Low Insurance	SOLD
2011 11	JAGUAR XF LUXURY 3.0 DIESEL AUTO, Silver Metallic with Heated Leather Seats, Sat Nav, Reverse Camera,	£11,499
2009 59	LAND ROVER RANGER ROVER SPORT 3.0 HSE AUTO, Grey Metallic, 75,000 Miles, FSH.....	SOLD
2013 63	LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2 TD4 XS, manual, Metallic Black, 1 Owner, 19" Alloy Wheels, Leather, Sat Nav, Top Spec, 73,000 miles	£15,499
2013 13	LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 HSE SD4 AUTO, Black, Leather Seats, One Owner, 56,900 Miles, Top Spec	SOLD
2010 60	LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2 GS AUTO, Grey Metallic, New Shape, 2 Owners, 33,000 Miles, FSH.....	£13,999
2012 12	LANDROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 HSE AUTO, Black Metallic, Cream Leather, Sat Nav, 39,000 Miles FSH,	£17,499
2007 56	LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 SE TD4 Manual, Black Metallic, 74,400 Miles, FSH.....	SOLD
2010 10	LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 4 3.0 HSE AUTO, Blue Metallic, Almond Leather, 54,000 Miles, FLRSH, Top Spec,	£22,999
2013 63	MERCEDES CLS 350 CDI AMG AUTO ESTATE, White, 33,000 Miles, FSH	SOLD
2005 05	MERCEDES SL350 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, Red with Beige Leather, 73,000 Miles, FSH.....	£9,999
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2006 56	MITSUBISHI SHOGUN SPORT 2.5 TROJAN DIESEL, Black Metallic, Leather Seats, 2 Owners, 64,000 Miles,	£5,499
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2013 13	VAUXHALL CASCADA SE 2.0 CDTi CONVERTIBLE, Blue Metallic, Electric Hood, 15,000 Miles, One Owner, FSH,	£11,999
2013 63	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.7 CTDi SE 5 DOOR, Grey, 29,000 Miles, Panoramic Glass Roof	SOLD
2013 63	VOLVO V60 R - DESIGN 1.6 Diesel, Manual, Metallic Blue, 1 Owner, 53,000 miles, Heated Seats, Bluetooth	£12,999
2014 63	VOLVO V40 R-DESIGN 1.6 TDi LUX AUTO, Blue, Black Leather, 20,400 Miles, FSH.....	£12,999
2012 61	VW SCIROCCO 2.0 TDI TECH COUPE, Viper Green, One Owner, 24,000 Miles, £30 Road Tax.....	£11,999
2012 62	VW GOLF 2.0 GT TDi 5 DOOR, Silver Metallic, Black Leather, 37,200 Miles, FSH.....	£11,499
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MOTURING

ROAD TEST



Although the roof line is lower, inside the cabin head and shoulder room are more generous than its predecessor

Another perfectly pitched package from Audi stable

By John Griffiths

Audi sales are still going from strength to strength and at least part of that customer appeal is the simply staggering variety of choices it offers.

It's widely-acclaimed A4 saloon – the latest version of which was launched last year – is among its most popular models. But rather than rest on its laurels the company has now unveiled all new versions of its sportier sibling, the A5 and flagship S5.

As good as the A4 is, looks are important so here is essentially the same car but with sporty styling and a little more panache: the looks of a low, purposeful, coupe but the practicality of a five door hatchback.

Its silhouette is similar to its predecessor but with a new front profile and surface contours which have improved aerodynamics, aiding efficiency while also reducing wind noise. It would take a good eye to spot it, but the new A5 (and even sportier S5) are lower, longer, with a longer wheelbase, which benefits the driving experience and frees up more interior space (particularly for those in the back) as well as allowing for a generous 480 litre boot – the latter expanding to 1,300 litres thanks to the split/fold rear seats.

Appeal

Although the roof line is lower, inside the cabin head and shoulder room are more generous than its predecessor.

It's easy to see the appeal, particularly as the latest A5 Sportback is new from the ground up and improved in every way – more powerful, more fuel efficient and with even better handling offering a taut, accurate and rewarding driving experience.

The new car costs from £33,050 to £47,000 and engine options range from a 2.0 litre turbo diesel with a very impressive 190PS of power and 400Nm of torque up to the turbocharged 3.0 litre V6 TFSI with 354PS and 500Nm of torque in the S5.

While diesels are likely to remain the biggest sellers, the 2.0 litre TFSI becomes even more attractive to petrol fans with more power (up 22PS to 230PS) yet with a big improvement in fuel economy, from 40.9 to 45.6mpg overall. But while the 2.0 turbo diesel's power output remains the same at 190PS, its fuel efficiency is up from 58.9 to 65.7mpg. CO2 emissions fall from 126 to 112g/km.

This highlights an important change in both the aerodynamics, the improved engines and transmissions and the whole structure of the new A5 range: the fact that they are up 85kg lighter. That impacts on fuel economy, performance, emissions and the already sharp handling characteristics of its predecessor.

The test cars at the UK launch were



Higher grade versions get a large central touchscreen

as usual top of the range specification examples, often with plenty of options, but the aluminium, leather and glossy trim combined with the latest technology underline the premium character of the A5.

Higher grade versions, for example, get a large central touchscreen with a Google earth overlay on the Satnav maps – giving you an accurate and effective aerial view instead of a diagrammatic representation. There's the virtual cockpit option, too, which allows you to instantly reconfigure the driver's instrument panel, including a larger version of the satnav image.

A head-up display, where the car's speed, current speed limit and basic directions are projected onto the windscreen in the driver's eye line, is also available.

When you hit the road both the 2.0 petrol and diesel models are particularly quiet – you have to listen hard to hear the engine at all and wind noise is also very low.

The V6-powered S5 is a different beast. Quiet in the cruise, it does produce a pleasing for the enthusiast growl of power under acceleration, although somewhat muted by regulations. It won't upset granny in the backseats, though, because it can't last long – in under five seconds you have to cease accelerating or break the national speed limit.

Its two lower powered stablemates aren't exactly slouches either – the sprint takes 7.4 seconds for the diesel and a second less than that for the 2.0 petrol. Both use a seven-speed S-Tronic automatic gearbox.

The relaxed fashion in which you can unleash the power is part of the A5's premium character. That's because both petrol and diesel versions are not only powerful they're turbocharged, delivering hefty amounts of torque which allow the A5 to make such performance seem easy.

Driving the A5 along a windy, open road just feels right: far more sports car than saloon. Turn in, roadholding and response are rapid and accurate, especially if you choose one with

the legendary quattro all-wheel drive system. Thanks to the new suspension, the ride is surprisingly compliant for a car with such dynamic potential. The S5 is a little different with stiffer (but far from teeth-rattling) suspension with active damping control as well as 19inch allows with 255/35 low profile tyres. There are sporty styling cues, too, and the V6 engine is mated to a revamped eight-speed tiptronic gearbox with a fuel-saving free-wheeling mode.

While at £47,000 the S5 isn't cheap, it is arguably good value for money as a five-door hatchback with near supercar performance, and the capability of averaging 37.7mpg in the hands of a careful driver.

Improvement

That too is a five per cent improvement on its predecessor while CO2 emissions are down by eight per cent – impressive when you remember it's a larger car with more power and torque.

The A5 range is, of course, well equipped with class-leading assistance, infotainment, connectivity and safety systems – the specification list is a long one and there are a wide range of options and option packs to personalise and upgrade the car even further.

The A5 is the sportier-looking sibling to the A4 saloon which has already claimed a 'Car of the Year' title. The coupe is an attractive proposition but I can't help thinking that the Sportsback's almost identical styling but with the practicality of a five-door hatchback is a winning combination, particularly as a family car.

The A5/S5 has style, panache and a range of more efficient engines which mean a family car capable of averaging almost 70mpg to a V6 flagship whose performance is nudging the supercar zone.

It seems Audi knows how to tick all the boxes – which is why it is a premium brand with sales figures some mass market car makers would envy.

Luxurious, elegant compact car with moves like Strictly!

By Andy Richardson

I peered over the bonnet. It stretched further into the distance than the Golden Gate Bridge and for a moment I thought I might need binoculars. Because the Infiniti Q30 is a curvaceous beast; part super-model, part muscled-up gym dude. Its curves roll like waves on the Atlantic; all ebb and flow, rise and fall. They conceal a ballsy 2.2 litre diesel engine that powers from 0-62 in 8.5 seconds. And if you can find a road with no speed cameras and no speed limits you can squeeze it to 134mph. Vroom blinkin' vroom.

The impressive styling, however, is just the start of it. For the aesthetic qualities of the Q30 are backed up by ritzy comfort, state-of-the-art technology, impressive performance and more grunt than a 93 decibel Maria Sharapova serve. 15-Love.

Gorgeous

But before we marvel at the satin chrome window trim, dual USB ports and six speaker sound system or the tyre pressure monitoring system to make sure it's phat tyres can cope with a tarmac feast, let's dwell for a moment on that beautiful exterior.

The Infiniti is, quite simply, drop dead gorgeous. A toothy grill and gentle undulations give the front magnetic attraction. LED auto-level headlights provide high level illumination while big-is-beautiful bonnet gives it kerb appeal. The Q30 is a real bobby dazzler, a head-turning, show-stopping stunner.

It's impressive on the inside as it is outside. A leather steering wheel and shift leather stands proudly above a leatherette dashboard and Nappa leather seat finishings. There are wood inserts for the door panels and centre cluster. Power lumbar support and three heat setting seats for the driver and passenger chairs make driving – or being driven – as pleasurable as taking front row seats at Birmingham's lavishly-upholstered Symphony Hall.

An all-singing, all-dancing entertainment system that's intuitive and responsive adds to the fun. Dual USB ports with iPod and smart phone connectivity, active noise cancellation, a cd player and Bluetooth

INFINITI Q30 FROM £20,850



The Infiniti Q30 has impressive styling backed up by ritzy comfort, state-of-the-art technology and impressive performance

streaming, voice recognition and touch street infotainment means you can listen to music in just about any format at a volume that would wake the neighbours. So well-thought-out is the media package that the only surprise is there isn't also a vinyl player.

The car hugs the road like a bear with a honey tree. It offers a fantastically smooth and sure ride; providing reassuring grip. It pulls down into the road, giving stability through corners and at speed. The sense of safety is underscored by a four-wheel ABS system, seven airbags – to protect knees and hips, as well as faces – adaptive

brake assist, a dash-mounted cruise control and a lane departure warning provide additional confidence. The Q30 is all about the detail and Infiniti have gone the extra mile. So while we might expect rain sensing wipers, rear parking sensors and a hill start assist, the forward collision warning and stop and auto dimming driver door mirror are an added bonus.

The Q30 offers three driver modes: Eco, regular and bloomin' fast – sorry, we meant to say 'sport'. The latter is cheetah-like. Graceful and bristling with power, it eats tarmac like a choc-o-holic in the Lindt factory.

And it's that drive that's the most impressive aspect of the Q30. Because for all of the whistles and bells, for all of the I've-done-quite-well-in-my-executive-life-and-it's-time-to-enjoy-the-rewards brilliant, and for all of the why-waste-extra-on-a-shiny-BMW-Mercedes-or-Audi-when-this-provides-all-of-their-brilliance-for-a-fraction-of-the-price value; the Q30 is, first and foremost, a delight to drive.

Quick, sturdy, powerful and responsive, it's an executive model with sports car feel; a luxurious and elegant statement-of-a-car that handles as beautifully as a pro dancer on Strictly.



Trauma of being stranded roadside

Close to half a million UK drivers a year are left stranded on the road after being involved in accidents that leave their cars immobile.

One in eight drivers are also forced to await rescue on a dangerous stretch of road, research by Direct Line has revealed.

The survey, which took into account 2,006 responses by UK adults, also found that 52 per cent of respondents under 35 felt vulnerable following an accident.

Simon Williams, RAC spokesman, said: "Being stranded at the side of a busy road after an accident can be a frightening experience."

"Having attended the scenes of thousands of accidents RAC recovery teams often find motorists and their passengers still in their vehicles on busy roads. We strongly advise everyone in a stricken vehicle to move to a place of safety as quickly and as carefully as possible to avoid the risk of being involved in another incident, unless you are unable to or it would put you in greater danger to do so."

The survey also revealed that a quarter of drivers had to resort to calling friends or family members to come and rescue them.

Gus Park, head of motor insurance at Direct Line, said: "Being stranded by the roadside can be extremely distressing for the driver and passengers involved, especially after a collision that leaves the vehicle unroadworthy. With a thousand people involved in car accidents every day, the last thing they need is to be left stranded in a vulnerable, or inconvenient location with no means to get to their destination."

The data also showed that female drivers were more likely to call a partner, while men preferred to contact their insurers first.

Lost car keys prove to be a bonus for owner

A 1996 Mercedes-Benz SL500 whose owner drove only 80 miles before losing the keys and never using it again has just been sold at auction by international auctioneers Coys for the record price of £56,640.

Purchased as a birthday present for its sole lady owner, it was driven just 80 miles before being stored in an underground garage. The owner lost the keys and never drove it again. Twenty-one years later it was found and sold by Coys at their Spring Classics auction in London this week.

Chris Routledge, CEO of Coys, said: "This is a fantastic price bearing in mind that a normal version of this car, with reasonable mileage, would probably be worth 20% of what this SL500 made today. An exciting sale and a new world record!"

The Mercedes-Benz SL500 R129 roadsters were produced from 1989 through 2002, featuring many innovative details for the time, such as electronically controlled damping and a hidden, automatically extending roll-over bar, electric windows and mirrors. This is one of the more powerful and sought after M119 engined cars and also boasts a number of optional factory extras, including heated front seats, six CD multi-changer, upgraded radio and wood-leather steering wheel. The car has just recently been subject of a light re-commission and is supplied with books, manuals and an MOT certificate until March 2018.



Restored 'spy van' going on show

A blue Ford Transit used by the government for surveillance operations will be displayed complete with period-correct camera and monitoring equipment.

The former government 'spy van' has been fully restored for display at the forthcoming Consumer Vehicle Show.

The blue 1988 Ford Transit used to be owned by HM Revenue and Customs and was used by the agency to monitor tax avoiders.

It has now been restored to its original glory and is due to go on display at the Commercial Vehicle Show at Birmingham NEC between April 25 and 27.

Paperwork with the vehicle shows that it operated in south-east, north-west, north-east England as well as Scotland, covering just 6,000 miles between 2003 and 2013. The mileage now reads 48,000.

After seeing service with government, it was bought by James Davis, director of commercial vehicles at Manheim Auctions, in 2014.

It then underwent restoration at



Period-correct 'spying' equipment was installed during restoration of the van which was active for ten years

experts C Walton Ltd in Bruntingthorpe, Leicestershire, and had period-correct cameras, microphones and other monitoring equipment fitted to give the interior an authentic feel.

The stalwart Ford Transit is one of the most iconic and highest-selling vans ever made.

Introduced in 1965, more than eight million examples have been sold – this



particular van was initially restored to celebrate the model's 50th birthday.

On May 22, the 'spy van' Transit will go up for auction with no reserve to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society.

MEET THE TEAM

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Drive it to appreciate how good it is

By Graham Breeze

The future really is looking bright for Suzuki after record sales in 2016 and the promise of a lot more to come.

We bought 38,190 units in 2016 in the UK, that's 3,700 more than in 2015 and while that only represents a 1.42 per cent market share – just outside the top 20 manufacturers – it's a huge boost for the Japanese company.

The motoring press has been quick to recognise the leap in quality and performance, throwing awards in the company's direction.

The new Ignis is a World Car Of The Year finalist; Celerio is What Car's Best Buy City Car; Vitara is What car's Best Buy; Swift is What Car's Best Buy Hot Hatch and Baleno is Scotland and Ireland's Small Car Of The Year.

Boosterjet

And I get the impression it won't be too long before the bouquets are being hurled in the direction of the S-Cross after recently testing the model in 1.4 Boosterjet 4x4 SZ5 mode.

The S-Cross first went on sale in October 2013 as Suzuki's first 'C' segment crossover model and now the facelifted model has more distinctive and upright front end styling, offering a stronger and bolder road presence.

Ground clearance has been increased by 15mm to 180mm and new design headlamps help provide both higher efficiency and a sharper look.

At the rear, newly designed LED rear combination lamps are used to provide a cleaner and more contemporary style.

There's also a distinctive new interior design utilising an updated soft-touch dashboard pad, framing highlights for the centre panel



Space in the boot is reasonable and newly designed seat fabric for SZ4 and SZ-T models.

Suzuki do still need to improve the quality of materials used in the cabin though S-Cross claims ample room for five occupants and while the back is spacious enough you really wouldn't want to travel as one of three. A double sliding panoramic glass sunroof is fitted as standard on the SZ5 model with one of the largest opening areas in its category at 560mm.

All SZ4 models are equipped as standard with seven airbags, ESP, Bluetooth, DAB digital radio, air conditioning, Daytime Running Lights (DRL), 16-inch alloy wheels, cruise control with speed limiter, air conditioning, heated door mirrors, black protective skid plates and black wheel arch extensions.

SZ-T adds LED Projector Headlamps, satellite navigation, polished 17-inch alloy wheels, rear parking camera, front and rear parking proximity sensors, Dual Zone automatic air conditioning, front fog lamps,



The facelifted model has more distinctive and upright front end styling

rear privacy glass, silver roof rails and silver rear skid plates. Equipment for the top of the range SZ5 model includes Radar Brake Support (RBS), leather seat upholstery, heated front seats, double sliding panoramic sunroof and aluminium roof rails.

A range of six exterior colours are available for the UK market; Superior White is available as a solid colour with Silky Silver Metallic,

Mineral Grey Metallic, Cosmic Black Pearl Metallic, Sphere Blue Pearl Metallic and Energetic Red Pearl Metallic available as a £430 option.

Having already heaped praise on the 1.0litre Boosterjet version it was no surprise to find the 1.4 option was equally impressive in the SZ5 with Allgrip all-wheel drive. The engine really is a revelation.

This model will set you back £24,199 but you get the performance to match the price. There's a top speed of 124mph, 0-62mph in 10.2seconds, 49mpg and CO2 levels of 128g/km.

The S-Cross is not the best looking car you'll see, some even described it as ugly, but it grows on you. You really have to drive this Suzuki to appreciate just how good it is.

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Llanymynech off to flier with victory over champs

NEWCOMERS Llanymynech A made an encouraging start to their return to the Oswestry and District Bowling League division one after pulling off a 7-3 home win against defending champions Ceiriog Valley A.

Mark Kirkham led the way with a 21-7 success as Llany took the aggregate by five shots (137-132).

Chirk A lost 8-2 at Ruabon A who took the aggregate by 29 shots (149-120), and Llangollen B white-washed Corwen A 10-0 (168-87).

Johnstown A overcame their own B team 8-2 (165-119), while Whittington A had a free week.

CHURCH A, relegated to division two this season, sounded an early warning that they are aiming for a swift return after crushing their own B team 10-0 (168-105).

Brian Canlett was their best of the night, winning 21-10, John Roberts also prevailing to 11.

Another side stepping down this season, **WESTON RHYN A**, opened with a convincing 8-2 (153-86) home verdict against Ellesmere A.

The home team carded five single figure wins, Pip Penrose leading the charge to three while Nathan Lewis won to four. John Harrison (21-10) was the pick off the replies for the Meresiders,

GEORGE, newly promoted from the third division, succumbed 7-3 (158-122) away to **YE OLDE CROFTE A**.

LLANKHAEADR A, who narrowly missed out on promotion last term, lost their opening night's action 7-3 (150-123) away to Chriftins B.

WHITTINGTON B went down 7-3 (159-114) at Llangynog A, Keith Williams (21-15) the best.

Church roll over visitors for fine win

CHURCH C made a strong start in division three of the Oswestry and District Bowling League with an 8-2 verdict at home to Ellesmere B.

Glyn Edwards and Patrick Bennett were both good single figure winners to three and five in a 164-103 aggregate win, while Allan Davies responded 20-18.

FOX LANE were also 8-2 winners as they accounted for Bersham with a 150-132 aggregate, Roger Woolf winning to 12.

There was a poor start for last season's promotion chasers **BLACK LION** who slumped 10-0 (168-85) at Crftins C.

Basil Davies was a 21-6 winner as Llanfyllin A opened with a 6-4 (143-119) success against Llangynog A.

IFTON, who swept all before them last season, were up and running in division four with an 8-2 home win over Llanymynech B 2.

Llanrhaeadr C accounted for their own D team with a 8-2 (36 shot) success, Bob Williams prevailing 21-9 for the victors.

Ifton beaten by leaders

IFTON suffered a jolt in the Salop Leisure Shropshire Premier Bowls League after falling to a 10-4 home defeat to leaders Sir John Bayley.

The St Martins side had suffered a creditable start with an 11-3 success at home to Newport followed by a 10-4 reverse away to last season's runners-up Castlefields.

They were lying fourth, but after their home defeat to the high flying Bayley side, they now find themselves down to ninth in the table, and looking to bounce back away to Bylet on Friday evening.

Geraint Williams and Nicky Jones were the best of the night for Ifton with 21-14 wins, while Darren Lacey was a 21-16 victor and Leighton Roberts shaded his match 21-20 against Spencer Clarke.

But Sir John Bayley comfortably took the aggregate by 38 shots (232-194) to land the additional two points.

Welshpool spark with win over Flint

CAPTAIN Joe Stranks again led from the front as Welshpool notched a 31-19 victory against visiting Flint in the North Wales Division Three North East.

The flanker was again at the heart of the action with one of Pool's five tries in the bonus point win as the Maesydre men continued their creditable campaign.

They made a strong start to lead 14-0 before being pegged back at 14-14 at the break, but pushed ahead in the second period to run out convincing winners.

No8 Ryan Goodwin also went over along with winger Paul Davies, full back Gareth Jones and replacement forward Harry Trow. Centre Andrew

Thomas, back from three months in New Zealand, also weighed in with three conversions.

Buoyed by the win, Pool are hoping to rearrange their home match with Machynlleth for Saturday after it was postponed a few weeks back.

Hat-trick

Welshpool held their ladies day during the match, with the charity event raising £1,000 in the fight against prostate cancer, a figure which was doubled by a local bank.

The club will face either COBRA II or Llandrindod Wells in the final of the Mid Wales Shield at Llani-

loes on Saturday, May 27.

Meanwhile, a hat-trick of tries from fullback Henry Roberts sentenced Llanidloes to a 36-14 reverse at second placed Dolgellau in the North Wales division two.

The damage was done in the first half, with Llani 26-0 down at the break p:laying into a testing wind, before showing plenty of spirit to have the better of the second period.

Their efforts were rewarded as full-back Dafydd Duggan crossed in the corner and No8 Gareth Anwyl crashed over for a another try, both converted by Adam Price to make the final score 36-14.

COBRA downed after final day of twists

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

COBRA'S relegation was confirmed from rugby's North Wales League division one after failing to take their chances in a 35-24 loss at Colwyn Bay in their last game of the season.

With basement rivals Ruthin losing 33-13 at home to arch rivals Mold on the same day, the Meifod side could have survived had they gained a bonus point win.

In an added twist, Colwyn Bay had also been dragged into the relegation mix after being docked four points for fielding an ineligible player earlier in the week - meaning had the home side lost without a bonus point, they would have been relegated.

But COBRA were unable to capitalise against a Bay team who were in far more resilient mood as they bounced back from their 122-0 mauling at the hands of champions Nant Conwy the week before.

Defeat marked a disappointing end to a testing campaign for the Llanfair side who could reflect on spurning points in a number of games that would have made a huge difference come the end of the season.

Now finishing second bottom, they are set for the drop, but will only know their fate once plans to restructure the league is announced in the coming weeks.

COBRA had got the first points on the board when a good break down the left by Harry Jukes saw the ball recycled and, after some good phases of possession, outside centre Llew Williams went over, the conversion missed.

But that lead did not last long as Bay got their noses in front when a strong run from their No8 resulted in a converted try.

Llew Williams was then yellow carded for an off the ball tackle as he tried to retrieve the ball that had been kicked on after the visitors had lost possession.

And while they were down to 14 men, COBRA conceded two converted tries to trail 21-5, the third touchdown again coming when they had been on the attack.

That was the score at half time, but Bay added a fourth try, and crucially a bonus point, when they went over for a converted score soon after the break.

COBRA kept plugging away, and reduced the arrears with wing Harry Jukes squeezing over in the corner, and the same player went over for his second touchdown following a terrific 25-yard pass from replacement Will Worthington.

That was converted by Williams to leave the visitors trailing 28-17, and they trimmed the gap further five minutes from time when Jack Jukes

Youngsters net tennis awards



Oswestry junior winners on the day Emily Lowe and Daniel Edwards

AS a precursor to the summer league season Oswestry Tennis Club held its first social tournament of the year last weekend.

It was held in glorious sunshine with 16 members having a very enjoyable time with each playing five mini matches in a mixed doubles format.

Youth took the honours with junior member Daniel Edwards achieving the highest points from the men - just beating Nick Elliott on a count-back - and junior member Emily Lowe achieving the highest points from the ladies with a trophy awarded to both winners.

Similar monthly tournaments will be run by the club for its members through the summer until September.

Following an extremely successful season last year the club is about to embark on a busy spring and summer season having entered three ladies and three men's teams in the LTA Shropshire Doubles League alongside their club singles ladder tournament which has already commenced.

The mixed doubles handicap knock-out tournament proved exceptionally popular last year and has even more entrants this year with sixteen pairs. The club has also introduced a new ladies doubles handicap tournament which has been well supported with ten pairs participating.

It is hoped that the success of last year will continue and all the teams are looking forward to a very competitive season.

Latest golf returns from Shropshire golf clubs

CARDEN PARK Ladies' Napier Trophy: T Gooding and A Dawson 38pts; S Norman and P Austin 33pts; C Charnley 75-16=59; A James 75-16=59. **Medal:** C Wilson 94-19=75; B Martin 98-17=81; A Jones 117-32=85. **Stableford:** C Charnley 36pts (16); L Robinson 32pts (29); D Fell 30pts (36). **Winter League (4 best scores):** A Jones 106; R Barton 104; A James 101. **Winter Eclectic:** A Jones 88-32=56; C Charnley 75-16=59; A James 75-16=59. **Winter Singles Knockout Winner:** P Austin. Runner Up: A Jones.

HAWKSTONE PARK Men's Stableford Division 1: P Corfield 40pts; K Salt 39pts; K Atkinson 36pts. Division 2: J Walker-Smith 37pts; B Williams 36pts; R Mackness 35pts. **Men's April Medal Division 1:** L Ollerenshaw 78-7c=71; S Smith 78-6c=72; A Burdick 77-5c=72. Division 2: S Hodgkins 90-22c=88; D Driver de Valle 95-25c=70; R Gemmill 86-15c=71. **Ladies' April Medal:** J Wales net 75; K Gleave net 76; L Goff net 83. **Seniors' Friendly Matches (Thurs March 9th):** Wrexham GC 7 Hawkstone Park GC 3.(Thurs March 23rd): Hawkstone Park GC 4.5 Lilleshal GC 3.5. (Tues April 4th): Llanymynech GC 3.5 Hawkstone Park GC 4.5. (Thurs April 6th): Lilleshal GC 7 Hawkstone Park GC 1.

HENLLE PARK April Individual Stableford Division 1: M A Jones 39pts; D O Evans 36pts; J Michael Evans 35pts; Division 2: M Elson 38pts (cb); M Roberts 38pts; C Jones 37pts; Division 3: R Harris 39pts; E Morris 37pts; K McLean-Ingles 33pts. **Wednesday Night Roll Up Comp:** C Tinsley 22pts; D Williams 20pts; J Macted 19pts (cb). **Ladies' Coronation Foursomes:** Tattersall & B Brain; D Davies & K Evans; M Pugh-Jones & J Andrews. **Seniors' Stroke Play Division 1:** A Edwards 66pts; C Andrews 68pts (cb); T Dodd 68pts; Division 2: J Bostock 66pts; A Dickenson 69pts; G Bellis 73pts.

HILL VALLEY Ladies' Stableford (Sapphire): G Thomas 32 pts (19); J Wruszek 31pts (30); S DeBarro 31pts (25). **Motor Neurone Stableford (Emerald):** G Thomas 32pts (19); C Ellwood 31pts (22); S Lockett 31pts (22).

LILLESALL HALL Pelham Cup Qualifiers: J Insal 76-16=60; R Stephenson 81-20=61; P Harris 74-8=66; M Ross 77-10=67; P Stevenson 87-19=68; G Davies 75-6=69; D Moore 82-13=69; A Sutton 81-11=70. **Ladies' Medal 1 Division 1:** S Parker 92-17=75; B Mickiewicz 84-9=75; D Morton 88-12=86; Division 2: V Simpson 101-23=78; B Morris 99-21=78; C Ashcroft 109-28=81; Division 3: L Stone 112-33=79; J Major 112-29=83; C Sycamore 113-30=83.

LLANYMYNECH Ladies' 18 Hole Medal Division 1: J Line 81-9=72; R Pritchard 82-10=72 (on count back); Division 2: J Brice 109-29=80; V Marks 104-24=80 (on count back); Division 3: M Andrew 117-36=81; J Steniet 113-30=83.

MILE END Sunday Social: S Russell, K Evans, G Turner 45pts; R Grocott, D Bradbury, J Reiley 43pts. **Extra Stableford Division 1:** P Jarvis 38pts; D Smith 36pts; M Kudarenko 36pts; Division 2: R Adkins 39pts; A Williams 38pts; G Manson 37pts; Division 3: C O Gorman 36pts; M Godfrey 35pts; D McKay 32pts. Nearest the Pin: M Kudarenko 1m 12. **Ladies' April Medal Division 1:** D Bradbury 84-15=69; A Ord 87-15=72; C Slater 96-22=74; Division 2: B Brain 100-25=75; S O'Connor 108-33=76; J Bennett 107-28=79. **Seniors' Medal Division 1:** P Trow 82-14=68; R Pugh 87-13=74; J Burford 90-16=74; Division 2: W Murray 91-18=73; B Crutchfield 94-20=74; R Sambrook 94-19=75; Division 3: J Reilly 102-28=74; C Dunn 102-26=76; B Williams 99-22=77. **April Medal Division 1:** B Sharpe 81-12=69; N Exton 79-10=69; J Wildblood 76-6=70; Division 2: K Evans 82-14=68; L Bennett 87-18=69; S Smith 85-15=70; Division 3: D Peeper 88-28=62; C Wildblood 93-24=69; S Rogers 95-23=72. Nearest the Pin: R Roberts (Captain) 19ft 8.

OSWESTRY Men's Spring Open: S Harris & M Phillips 46pts; G Jones & G Griffiths 45pts (cb); A Dimmock & S Adams 45pts; J Stirling & M Rooke 44pts (cb); D Jones & B Reid 44pts (cb); A Duckers & S Duckers 44pts. **Wynne Corrie Cup:** D Haycocks 73-8=65; I Bowe 82-16=66 (cb); T Taylor 79-13=66; D Pardoe 73-6=67 (cb); P Pardoe 72-5=67 (cb); P Dunning 85-18=67 (cb).

WREKIN Parton Jamieson Cup Round 2 of 6: K Gray 56/21; A Denver 57/9; M Lamb 57/19. **Ladies' Eclectic 1:** S Hayward 41.5; G Williams 42; Best Gross: S Pidgeon 47. **January Stableford:** S Hayward 22pts; R Stubbs 24pts; S Pidgeon 22pts. **February Stableford:** J Barrowclough 21pts; R Stubbs 22pts; D Buchanan 24pts. **March Stableford:** P Wilson 24pts. **Bogey Comp:** S Hayward - 4. Runner Up: S Pidgeon - 5. **Eclectic 2:** G Williams 41; D Austin 43. Best Gross: S Pidgeon 49. **April Foursomes:** J Currel & S Goulds 30pts. **Freeston Trophy Winner:** G Williams 83; S Hayward 85.

Croquet club issues appeal

WITH the new season under way, Shrewsbury Croquet Club is seeking new members.

Both beginners or experienced players are equally welcome.

The season runs until September 30 each year and the club has two full size lawns located at Monkmore Recreation Centre, Racecourse Crescent, Shrewsbury.

The club is offering five introductory coaching sessions for £25 to beginners during April/May. This can be deducted from the first year's membership fee of £50.

Contact club secretary Barbara Edwards on 01743 761237.

Eagles' Shield hopes dashed in the semi

OSWESTRY'S hopes of landing some silverware at the end of a tough season were dashed after falling to a thrilling 19-17 defeat to holders Kidderminster in the semi-final of rugby's North Mids Shield.

The Eagles had gone into the encounter at Granville Park in good heart after notching their first win in the South Lancs and Cheshire One with a 25-24 home success against Anselmians the week before.

But, despite playing their part in a terrific tie, they missed out on a place in the final following a tense finish against their Worcestershire visitors who have won the trophy for the past two years.

The exciting encounter was in the balance throughout, but a late push for victory by the Eagles proved to no avail.

Oswestry were soon on the attack, discovering the kind of skill that has eluded them for much of the season.

Nick Clay, at scrum half, provided quick ball from the ruck and scrums to set up his flying backs to launch some mesmerising runs at the

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

Kidderminster defence.

However, the visitors got the first points on the board with a penalty, before the Eagles hit back when a fabulous move from Andy Merrett found winger Jordain Morris who faked a pass and darted inside for a great personal try converted by the returning Fin Grogan.

Both teams were looking to probe any weaknesses they could find in the defensive lines, with Kiddy kicking all three penalties they were awarded while the hosts responded with a Grogan penalty to lead 10-9 at half time.

With the sun shining, Kidderminster looked to dazzle after the break as they finally found a chink in the Oswestry armour to score an unconverted try through their wing to lead 14-10.

The Eagles were back on the attack, looking to probe the visiting defence, and their endeavours were rewarded when Matt Cole caught the vis-

itors napping from a penalty close to the line to dive over with Grogan adding the extras,

Now it was the turn of Kidderminster to attack, showing all their skills and powerful play back as they got their noses back in front with an unconverted try.

With just two points separating the sides, Oswestry pressed in the visitors 22 for a decisive score with just minutes left.

However, they crucially lost possession to allow Kiddy to clear their lines and seal victory in a pulsating clash, well appreciated by both sets of supporters.

There were several notable performances for the Os, but the Lanyon Bowdler and Hughes Bros man-of-the-match was Dan Morgan.

On Saturday, the Eagles play Manchester Medics at Granville Park (3pm) as they look to continue their improvements against a side who were also promoted to the South Lancs Cheshire One last season.

Boris bags hat-trick as Town suffer early shock

FC Oswestry Town suffered a third straight defeat in the Hall-mark North West Counties League division one after a disastrous first half saw them slump 4-1 away to Sandbach United.

After losses at Daisy Hill (3-1) and home to Chadderton (5-4), Town returned from Cheshire empty handed after shipping in four goals before the interval.

A hat-trick from Boris Melingui put the skids under the visitors, with the striker opening the scoring on eight minutes before Joshua Lunstram doubled the lead on 19 minutes.

Melingui then struck twice more on 26 and 43 minutes to seal his hat-trick to leave the Oswestry side staring down the barrel.

To their credit, they steadied the ship after the break and gained a last minute consolation through Jack Harris, but the damage had been done in the first 45 minutes.

“We’ve got issues with players arriving late and not taking instructions on board, something we need to sort out for next season,” said manager Mike Barton.

“We had a good discussion at half time, players had their say, which was good, and we got a good response in the second half.

“We won the second half 1-0 which was pleasing, but the game was dead and buried.”

Town’s reply came in the last minute when Tom Rowlands squared a free kick to Harris who drove a 20-yard strike into the net to give the visitors some cheer.

While FC Oswestry slipped down to 13th in the table, the victory consolidated Sandwich’s top six place as they head for the end-of-season play-offs.

Llanfair left to sweat in drop battle

LLANFAIR United continue to sweat on relegation from the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance after suffering a battling 2-1 defeat at Holywell Town.

Steve Thomas (39) and Jamie McDaid (48) were on target for the Wellmen either side of the break, with Ryan Davies heading home a reply from a corner midway through the second period.

The defeat means Llanfair cannot escape the bottom four, but could still earn a reprieve if only three teams are relegated.

Their cause was helped with Mold Alex being held 3-3 at Conwy Borough after being three goals up. That result sees Alex remain below United whose last game of the season is at home to Powys rivals Guilsfield on Saturday.

Earlier in the week, Llanfair kept alive their hopes of survival after picking up a vital three points in a smash and grab 2-0 win at Denbigh Town.

James Davies netted twice.

Guils beaten as they let the lead slip

GUILSFIELD reserves continue to flirt with relegation danger in the Montgomeryshire League division one after suffering a 3-2 home loss to Llanyrnnech.

Their defensive frailties were evident as they allowed 1-0 and 2-1 leads to slip through their grasp.

Wil Morgan gave the Guils an early lead but this did not last long before the visitors we back on terms through Sam Roberts.

An own goal restored the home advantage but Llanyrnnech refused to lie down and hit back to claim a 3-2 victory courtesy of goals from Rob Jones and Lewis Williams.

Midweek Montgomeryshire League results
Division one: Guilsfield Res 2 Llanyrnnech 3, Watford Rowers 1 Melton 1, Division two: Abermule Res 1 Welshpool Res 1, Carno Res 0 Newtown Wanderers 2, Kerry Res 1 Bishop’s Castle 4.

Morda double hopes downed by Llany

A HAT-trick from Mike Edwards dashed Morda United’s hopes of securing a Montgomeryshire League division one double over neighbours Llanyrnnech.

The Weston Road hosts had led until two second half strikes completed the treble for Edwards that enabled the visitors to come away with a 3-2 victory.

Liam Edwards had volleyed Morda ahead before Mike Edwards equalised. A blocked clearance saw Jamie Evans put Morda ahead by the interval before hat-trick hero Edwards turned the game for Llany.

The Morda starting line up featured five teenagers including debutant Harry Morris in midfield.

They enjoyed a dream start when Liam Edwards

volleyed home an opener from a Dylan Ellis corner on five minutes.

Jamie Evans went close to a second before Mike Edwards pounced on a loose ball in the box to fire the equaliser.

Morda took the play to the visitors and nearly went ahead again when Evans broke through only to fire wide.

Evans was eventually rewarded for his tireless running when his block of a goalkeeper’s clearance went into the net to put the home side back in front at the break.

After the interval, United appeared to be heading towards victory with Evans going close from a Harry

Davies cross and Davies himself shooting narrowly wide.

In a rare Llanyrnnech effort, Jack Watkin drew a fine save from Paul Morris before they pulled level through the alert Mike Edwards.

Liam Edwards nearly hit back with a curling shot before his namesake completed his hat-trick and with a neat chip to secure victory for Llanyrnnech - the exact opposite of the score when the teams met in the reverse league fixture just one month ago.

Morda, who were grateful to Mark Lewis of Beterskill for sponsoring the match, were in action again last night (Tuesday) in a league fixture at Guilsfield reserves.

Shock defeat as TNS downed by Bangor

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

TEN-MAN The New Saints suffered only a third Dafabet Welsh Premier defeat of the season as Bangor City ended a long losing streak at the hands of the champions.

City had lost their previous 17 league outings against TNS, stretching back to November 2011, but put the record straight with a rousing 3-0 victory at the Bangor University Stadium.

After the Saints had substitute Mihai Leca sent off just before the interval, the Citizens stormed to victory in the second half with goals from Henry Jones, Daniel Nardiello and player boss Gary Taylor-Fletcher.

TNS boss Craig Harrison admitted his side had met their match after slumping to their heaviest league defeat in what has been a record breaking season.

“We’ve got to hold our hands up and say that Bangor were better than us,” he said. “It’s the first time in over 40 league and cup games this season that we’ve said that about an opposition, but it’s going to happen at some stage.

“It’s disappointing to lose, the lads are gutted. They have been fantastic this season, but you’ve to get to give Bangor credit.

“We need to take it on the chin, make sure we learn form it and look to move on.”

Despite victory, Bangor missed out on automatic qualification for the Europa League, so must now go into the play-offs where they will meet Newtown.

■ Red-hot Newtown secured their place in the Europa League play-offs in style with a 7-0 rout at already relegated Airbus UK.

The Robins bagged six of the goals in the first half in their biggest Welsh Premier win of the season, with Alex Fletcher firing the first on six minutes and Kieran Mills-Evans glancing in a second.

Although Tony Gray headed against the bar at the other end, the Robins were proving too hot to handle with ex-Airbus striker Jason Oswel making it three when rounding keeper Ryan Neild.

Shane Sutton added a fourth, Oswel netted his second with a penalty before Ross Stephens fired No6 right on half time.

Newtown continued to have chances after the break before top scorer Oswel volleyed home to complete his third hat-trick of the season to take his tally to 22 goals. He is now set to land the league’s Golden Boot award.

Frankton get ready for season



The Frankton cricketers getting the ground ready for the opening weekend's fixtures

FRANKTON Cricket Club is getting in shape for the coming campaign after holding a Natwest Cricketforce day as it embarks on what will be a special season.

The programme is designed to bring clubs and local communities closer together, and ensure grounds and facilities are ready for the new season.

Club captain Ian Whitticase

was delighted after the club got a spruce-up on a glorious Sunday spring morning.

“It’s good to see so many members turn up to help get the ground ready for the season ahead,” he said.

Frankton celebrates its 70th season this year and has many events planned during the summer.

The club has been transformed over the years, now running three weekend and two midweek teams, as well as boasting an impressive pavilion and state of the art nets all set within a six-hit of Hardwick Hall.

Junior cricket training starts at Hardwick Park on Thursday, May 4 for ages 6-16. Contact the club at franktoncc@hotmail.co.uk

Guilsfield take lead twice but still held

GUILSFIELD lamented another missed chance after being held 2-2 draw at Ruthin Town to remain entrenched in mid table in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance.

Jake Cook broke the deadlock for the Guils five minutes from half time when slotting in after a corner had been flicked on by Adam Jenkins.

But Ruthin were back on terms at the break as Garman Hafal latched onto a long ball to finish.

Defender Robbie James then restored the lead five minutes into the second period when heading in a Cook corner, but Will Owen struck a second equaliser for Ruthin to ensure honours were shared. The Guils remain ninth in the table.

“Ruthin have strung together some impressive results, but it was a game we should have won,” said Guils manager Dan Barton.

Meanwhile, Caersws brought the curtain down on their campaign with a 4-2 loss at home to Holyhead Hotspur.

Despite twice hitting back to level, it proved a game too far for the injury-hit Bluebirds who remain sixth in the table.

Brandon Hogan gave the Anglesey visitors a 28th minute lead, before Luke K Evans had the Bluebirds on terms on 39 when converting a Graham Evans crisis.

Holyhead, however, were back in front through Mel McGuinness moments later, only for player boss Graham Evans to slot a second equaliser with a Sean Evans assist on 69 minutes.

But Hotspur grabbed the three points with goals from Jack Griffiths (77) and a Dewi Thomas penalty seven minutes from time.

Shropshire are looking to get a flying start

SHROPSHIRE skipper Steve Leach insists his team must hit the ground running when they begin their Unicorns Knockout Trophy campaign this weekend.

The county face Staffordshire, runners-up in last year’s competition, in their opening group game at Shrewsbury’s London Road ground on Sunday (11am).

Shropshire memorably won the one-day competition for Minor Counties clubs in 2010 and were then beaten in the 2013 final by Berkshire, but they have been knocked out at the group stage in the last three years.

Leach said: “In the not too distant past, we have won the competition and also been to the final again, but with the four group games it makes it very tough. Once you get out of the group, you probably feel like you can win the competition really.

Shropshire have retained the services of influential professionals David Wainwright and Alex Wyatt for a second season.

Four-star win as Saints keep up fine run

ST MARTINS produced a fine all round display to dispatch Worcester Raiders 4-0 at Park Hall as they climb towards mid table in the West Midlands League division one.

One more win would secure an eighth place finish, a vast improvement from the earlier struggles.

After an even first quarter of an hour, the Saints never looked back once Tom Ash opened the scoring on 17 minutes.

Shawn Melusi doubled the lead on half time when heading in a cross from Calum Bennett, and two goals from Dave Easthope sealed the points in the second period.

His second goal on 79 minutes to complete the scoring was particularly memorable as he drove from his own half before crashing home.



TNS out to bounce back on last day

CHAMPIONS The New Saints will want to avoid their Dafabert Welsh Premier season petering out when they bring the curtain down on a record breaking campaign at Bala Town on Saturday (5.15).

After suffering only their third league loss of the season when downed 3-0 at Bangor City on Good Friday, the Saints hope to end on a high note against the third placed Lakesiders.

There is added incentive to finish the league with a win as the two teams also come face to face in the Welsh Cup final at the Bangor University Stadium the following week.

Manager Craig Harrison will be looking for his side to quickly put the City reverse behind them as they take on a Bala side whom have never defeated TNS in competitive action.

Bangor's victory ended a 17-match losing streak in the league against the Saints stretching back to 2011, which will serve as a timely reminder for the champions that nothing can be taken for granted. It was City's biggest win against TNS since prevailing 3-0 on April 9, 2002.

Despite the reverse, TNS remain on course to land an unprecedented third successive table should they lift the Welsh Cup at the end of the month.

Before then, players will be looking to impress against a Bala side who will also have one eye on the cup final.

"With the two teams in the Welsh Cup final the following week, I imagine they will be a bit tentative, but that's the way the fixtures have worked out," said boss Harrison.

"It's important we learn the lessons from last week's defeat, and take that into the Bala game. We've been training hard, and hopefully we'll have everyone back fully fit. It's a chance to give players some game time.

"We'll want to win Saturday's game, and we really want to win the Welsh Cup the following week. We are the holders, and we will do our utmost to defend what is a special trophy for us."

Town looking to get back on track

AFTER four straight losses, FC Oswestry Town will look to get back on track when they make Saturday's trek to Carlisle City in the Hallmark North West Counties League division one.

Town suffered another setback with a 4-2 loss to Alsager Town at Park Hall on Easter Monday, and have now conceded 16 goals in their last four outings to slip to 14th in the table.

"We were excellent in the first half, we dominated and should have been three or four up," said manager Mike Barton. "But we were disappointing in the second half. At the moment, we seem to be a one half team. We've got three games left and we need a couple of wins."

The goals flowed as **ST MARTINS** slipped to an exciting 6-4 loss at second placed Wednesday in the West Midlands League division one.

The Saints entertain Darlston Town at Park Hall on Saturday (3pm) knowing that victory would see them seal a creditable eighth place finish.

LLANFAIR FACE NERVY FINISH

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

LLANFAIR United bid to cling on to their hope of Huws Gray Cymru Alliance survival when they entertain neighbours Guilsfield in their last game of the season on Saturday (2.30).

The Mount Field men are facing the prospect of relegation after last weekend's 2-1 loss at Holywell Town who, by a quirk of fate, visit basement rivals Mold Alex in their final action this weekend.

United can finish no higher than fourth bottom, but that could still be enough to see them stay afloat should only three teams be relegated from the league this season.

Llanfair's cause was given a timely boost with Mold only drawing 3-3 at Conwy Borough last weekend, despite having been three goals up at one stage.

Boss Rhys Stephens believes United still have a chance of survival with a uncertainly over how many teams drop out, but nevertheless knows his team cannot afford any slip-ups against their Powys rivals on Saturday.

"We have got to make sure we finish fourth from bottom, and then it's in the lap of the gods," he said. "No-one's sure how many teams will go down, but we will have half a chance if we can stay in the position we are.

"Whatever happens, we have to match Mold's result to make sure we finish above them.

"But we don't want to rely on other teams doing us a favour, we have to do it ourselves. If we beat Guilsfield, then it doesn't matter what Mold do

"It's going to be tough. People will say that Guilsfield have nothing to play for, but it's a local derby, and they will want to win, make no bones about it."

Guilsfield boss Dan Barton said his side will not be treating the encounter lightly as they look to end their campaign on a high note.

"It's a massive game, and we want to do ourselves justice," he said. "We owe it to the other teams in the relegation fight."

His side missed a chance of a victory in their penultimate game after being held 2-2 at Ruthin Town despite twice leading with goals from Jake Cook and Robbie James. That result kept the villagers ninth in the table.

"Ruthin have strung together some impressive results, but it was a game we should have won," said Barton.

"When we went 2-1 up, we should have seen the game up, but that's been the story of our season.

"Had we turned our draws into wins, then we would have finished in the top four. It's frustrating, but it shows we are not far away."

Guilsfield and Llanfair, meanwhile, are lying second and third respectively in the Cymru Alliance fair play table.

With one game remaining, the Guils - with just one red card this season - can still challenge for the fair play title as they remain hard on the heels of leaders Ruthin Town.

Rugby set for league shake-up



Jordain Morris touches down for Oswestry with Fin Grogan in support. Pic: Martin Ord.

NORTH Wales rugby - which includes Powys rivals COBRA and Welshpool - is set for a major revamp next season.

The Welsh Rugby Union is set to announce plans to restructure the leagues following discussions with the clubs in recent weeks.

"The clubs will receive our proposals in the next couple of days, allowing them enough time to discuss the contents with their players and members," said a spokesman. "They can then come to a meeting on April 25 with their queries and observations."

In a letter to the 30 clubs currently playing in the North Wales leagues, the WRU stated that it was hoping to approve the new structure and composition of all competitions for the 2017-18 season by May 16 - three days after the end of the current league campaign.

The shake-up comes after COBRA were relegated from the North Wales League division one following their 35-24 loss at Colwyn Bay in their last game of the season.

With basement rivals Ruthin losing 33-13 at home to arch rivals Mold on the same day, the Meifod side could have survived had they

gained a bonus point win.

In an added twist, Colwyn Bay had also been dragged into the relegation mix after being docked four points for fielding an ineligible player - but victory saw them survive.

Defeat marked a disappointing end to a testing campaign for COBRA who could reflect on spurning points in a number of games that would have made a huge difference come the end of the season.

Pulsating

It was a better day for neighbours WELSHPOOL who notched a 31-19 victory against visiting Flint in the North Wales Division Three North East.

Meanwhile, OSWESTRY bowed out of the North Mids Shield following a pulsating 19-17 semi-final defeat to holders Kidderminster at Granville Park.

The Eagles now entertain Manchester Medics on Saturday (3pm) as they seek only their second win of the season in the South Lancs Cheshire One.

Cricketers to face old boys in a friendly

OSWESTRY'S cricketers will come up against some familiar faces when they visit Whitchurch in a pre-season friendly on Saturday (12.30).

During the winter, Whitchurch have signed two former players from their north Shropshire rivals - Dan Bowen and Sam Huxley - who will be out to impress against their old club.

Opening bowler Bowen has also played club cricket for Shrewsbury and represented Shropshire at Minor Counties level, while off-spinner Huxley will link up with his brother Alex, the Whitchurch skipper.

The two new recruits are set to face their old pals in this weekend's warm-up as Whitchurch look to make their mark after being relegated from the Birmingham League.

"It will be a good test for us as Whitchurch will be keen to make an impact after dropping down to the Shropshire League this season," said Oswestry chairman Mike Robinson.

On the double signings, Iain Marsh, Whitchurch's chairman of cricket, said: "Dan's moved back to Whitchurch and has played at a higher level so his experience will be invaluable. Sam's a spinner, so it's another bowling option for his brother."

While Oswestry's first team are away, the seconds will be at home to their Whitchurch counterparts. Both games start at 12.30pm.

Pakistani pacesman Sadaf Hussain will miss the friendly, but the Morda Road club hope the new signing will arrive in time for the Birmingham League division two opener away to C&R Hawks the following Saturday.

Hussain is the fourth major signing for Oswestry during the close season. He will link up with teenage quickie Roman Walker from Marchwyl and Wrexham, who has played for Glamorgan in pre-season. Bateman Chris Woodcock has also joined along with the return of wicketkeeper Dean Suter from Shelton.

Llan back on track with away victory

PROSPECTS are looking up again for Llanrhaeadr who got back on track in the Spar Mid Wales League division one with a 3-1 Easter Monday win at lowly Tywyn Bryncreg.

Iwan Matthews fired the opener after five minutes when latching on to an Endaf Owens cross, and Glenn Evans doubled the lead on 28 minutes when heading home a corner from brother Dale.

Although Tywyn pulled one back early in the second period, Llan were not to be denied as Matthews crossed for player boss Marc Griffiths to finish off six minutes from time.

Victory lifted Llanrhaeadr up to fifth in the table on goal difference, while the two sides again come face to face on Saturday (2.30).

The result also helped Welshpool's chances of escaping relegation from the first division as they remain seven points above basement rivals Tywyn who have three games left.

Saturday's first division fixtures (2.30): Bow Street v Llanidloes, Carno v Llandudno, Llanrhaeadr v Tywyn Bryncreg, Machynlleth v Knighton, Rhayader v Berriew, Welshpool v Aberaron.



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